

Inspiration

NEWS FROM SAINT PAUL BENSON

NOVEMBER 2022

God's Steadfast **ABUNDANCE**



PASTORAL PERSPECTIVE

Rev. Stephanie Ahlschwede

This month, I am considering the abundance we get to enjoy each day. November brings opportunities for an abundance of food.

Perhaps you have favorite traditions around Thanksgiving, football games, apple- or squash-oriented recipes, or get to enjoy someone else's Halloween bounty.

Abundance has a broader meaning for us than just tasty treats. In the theological context of our faith tradition, we are called to consider the abundance of mercy and forgiveness we have received; the abundance of blessings for which we now give thanks; the abundance of God's grace into which we live each day.

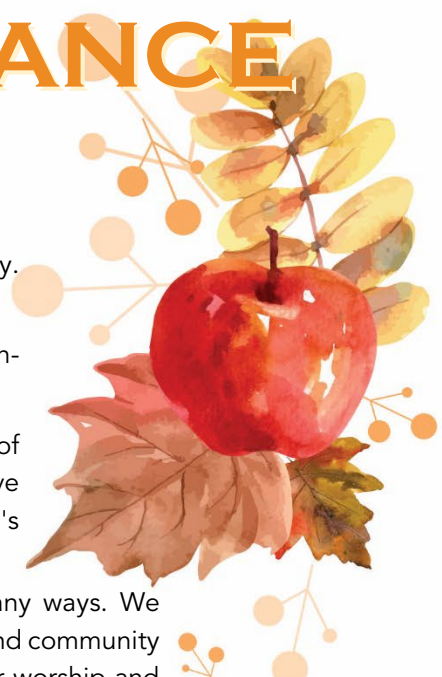
As a congregation, we participate in celebrating God's abundance in our creation in many ways. We worship and pray together; we open our building to all for life events, creative arts activities, and community causes; we plan for our future so generations we may never meet have a place to come for worship and spiritual shelter.

During the first week of November, I will be attending the South Central Jurisdictional Conference. Following a delay of over two years due to the pandemic, three new bishops of the United Methodist Church will be elected, and we will ultimately learn who will lead the Great Plains Conference as bishop for the coming years. November 20, our church conference will be held to approve key elements of Saint Paul's budget and leadership plan for 2023. The following week, we begin the season of Advent.

In this time of many actions and events, I give thanks for God's steadfast abundance in our midst as we look with hope to our future together.

In abundance,

Rev. Steph



A MEANINGFUL EXPERIENCE FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20 • 5 PM

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 7020 CASS ST.

Share your gratitude for all you've received with brothers and sisters of the Christian, Jewish and Muslim communities.

Combined interfaith choir with singers from Saint Paul participating, celebrating our shared Abrahamic heritage.

Please remember to return your completed "ABUNDANCE" pledge slips to the church office. Thank you for your continued support!

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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

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

It's more than the month of ending daylight saving time and beards growing where none appeared before...it's November.

We begin the month with our annual remembrance of All Saints' Day, **November 05/06**, the observation of the Sacrament of Holy Communion, and a reading of the names of members and friends of Saint Paul Church who have joined the 'church triumphant' since last we commemorated. Morning worship includes special ministry through music provided by Joy Bells and The Choir, the Solid Brass Quartet and David Schack, organist.

An interfaith worship opportunity new to the Saint Paul family will be held on Sunday, **November 20** at 5:00 p.m. First Church, 7020 Cass Street, will host the service, with clergy and choirs from First Christian, Temple Israel, First Congregational, the American Muslim Center, Countryside Community, Saint Margaret Mary, First & Saint Paul United Methodist, all participating. This interfaith Thanksgiving service will provide the entire Omaha metro area a chance to celebrate God's oneness through the many faith traditions that bless our community.

The liturgical reds of Pentecost will become Advent blue with weekend worship **November 26/27**. We begin an observance of scriptural reflection from the books of Isaiah and Matthew. With David Schack as organist, we prepare the 'house' for Advent and the coming Christmas season at morning worship. The familiar words of preparation are whispered yet again... "come, Lord Jesus"!



From the Desk of . . .

Rev. Marta Wheeler

May God's peace be with you on your spiritual journey.

October was capped off with a Women's Spiritual Retreat at Saint Benedict's Retreat Center near Schuyler. Highlights included tai chi classes patiently guided by Lane Sidebottom, music made more beautiful by Lorraine Hahn and several members of the choir, and prayer services every 3-4 hours. We are already planning next year's fall retreat!

Holy Listening

Sunday morning worshipers have begun to visit longtime friends and add to their weekly spiritual practices by attending Holy Listening prayer services. Contact me if you'd like to come! So far, November's plan is:

- Tues., Nov. 15, 2:30 PM, Immanuel Village, 6803 N. 68th Plaza
- Thurs., Nov. 17, 9:30 AM, ElkrIDGE Village, 19303 Seward Plaza
- Wed., Nov. 30, 10:30 AM, Brighton Gardens, 9220 Western Ave.



GRATITUDE HAIKU WITH STEPH & MARTA

Can you express gratitude in just 17 syllables? Use the ancient Japanese poetry form of haiku and test your writing skills in a judgement-free zone.

Monday, November 14th at 6:30pm in Fellowship Hall (enter under green awning). Light snacks will be served.

NEW BEGINNINGS: A new ministry led by Rev. Faith Kubai will begin in January. The yet-to-be-named ministry will include immigrants and refugees from east Africa (and other regions, too!) If you have friends, family or neighbors who may be interested in joining this fresh endeavor, please share their contact information with Pastor Faith.

Some members of what we've come to know as "New Life" may continue with us. Changes in the group's leadership led to their departure from our facility. We wish them well.



**United
Women
in Faith**

This month, we celebrate the lives of those lost over the year during a Service of Remembrance.

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 2 | 9:30 AM

ROOM 111 (Easy access on Corby St. at the red awning.)

All Women are Welcome to Attend!



BOOK CLUB

Join the Saint Paul Women's Book Club in-person at Immanuel Village or via Zoom to discuss

"Great Circle" by Maggie Shipstead

Saturday, November 12 at 9 AM

Meet on the 2nd floor "Hub" accessed through the south entrance. Contact Connie Crawford for details 402-660-8211.

PRAYERS for God's People

Christian Sympathy

To the family of Barbara Nun in her death Oct. 6

Recent Hospitalizations

Judy Fili
Ramona Repair
Linda Mead

Honorarium

"In honor of my mother Elizabeth's 97th birthday and the 50th wedding anniversary of cousins Mike & Cyndy Topliff" – Patsy Woodside

Memorials

For Carl Buono: Judy Buono (his daughter)

For Kunu, the "best dog ever": Rozanne Christensen

For Steve Dohe: Sue & Kent Bacon, Donna Hodgens, Connie Crawford, Mary & Scott Gardner, Gary Allgeier, Marilyn Cadwalader, Mary Cave, Vincent Emery, Stan Haynes, Curt Kiner, Gladys Lantz, Karen Spencer-May & Marc May, Gerald Pesek, Kathy Rice, Michael Schafer, Lynn and John Sedlacek, Curtis Seltz, Mary Short, Pearl Spicka, Vance Taylor, Larry and Marsha Weberg, Pat Wein, Greg & Charlene Wilcox

For Lew Klanderud: Vance Taylor

For Nancy Bauer: Karen Spencer-May & Marc May

For Patti Griffiths: Karen Spencer-May & Marc May

For Barbara Nun: Judy Buono, Jerry Brabec

For Frank Maycock: Delores Maycock

Our November Calendar

COMMUNAL OFFERING: MINISTERIAL EDUCATION FUND

This month's special offering supports the Ministerial Education Fund (MEF). 40% of funds go to theological schools based on UMC student enrollment, and 25% to seminaries for basic support. Additional funds support spiritual formation and continuing ed programs; and local annual conference assistance for clergy and those in process towards ordination.

OFFICE HOURS

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



BUILDING CLOSED NOVEMBER 24 & 25 // THANKSGIVING



SUNDAYS

8:00 AM	PianoSide Chat Worship Available on YouTube	
8:45 AM	Soul Journeys for Women	Library
9:30 AM	The Choir Rehearsal	Room 250
10:00 AM	Worship	
	In-Person in the Sanctuary and YouTube Livestream	
11:15 AM	Sunday School	Room 313

MONDAYS

9:00 AM	Lectio Divina	Offsite
9:00 AM	Quilters	Offsite
10:30 AM	Monday Morning Musings	Library
7:00 PM	MasterSingers Rehearsal	Chapel

TUESDAYS

1:30 PM	Prayer Shawl Ministry	Library
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THURSDAYS

5:45 PM	Joy Bells Rehearsal	Balcony
7:00 PM	The Choir Rehearsal	Room 250

SATURDAYS

12:30 PM	Omaha Girls Rock	Rooms 254-6
5:00 PM	Worship	Roth Chapel

WEEKDAYS

4:30 PM (Varies)	Omaha Girls Rock	Rooms 254-6
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WEEKDAY EVENINGS

6:00 PM	Benson Theatre (Various Nov. 1-15)	Wesley Hall
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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2

9:30 AM	United Women in Faith	Room 111
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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3

7:00 PM	MasterSingers	Roth Chapel
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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9

6:00 PM	Mercy & Justice Team	Library
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SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12

8:00 AM	Music Festival	Main Level
9:00 AM	Women's Book Club	Immanuel Village

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13

2:00 PM	CROP Walk	Downtown Benson
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MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14

6:30 PM	Steph & Marta Write Haiku	Fellowship Hall
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TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15

2:30 PM	Holy Listening	Immanuel Village
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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18

8:00 AM	ENOA Foster Grandparents	Fellowship Hall
8:00 AM	ENOA Foster Grandparents Breakout	Roth Chapel

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20

2:00 PM	Church Conference	Parlor
5:00 PM	Interfaith Thanksgiving Service	First UMC

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30

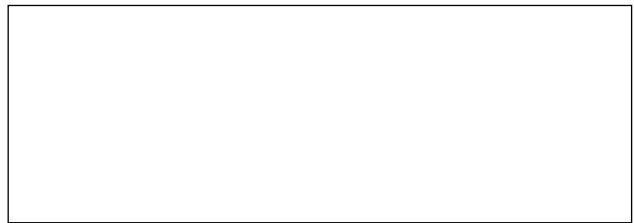
2:30 PM	Holy Listening	6	Brighton Gardens
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We're easy to find by searching for "SaintPaulBenson"
on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter or YouTube.

ADVENT FAIR

THE TRADITION RETURNS FOR THE 44TH YEAR!

SAVE THE DATE! SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3

The holliest, jolliest family-fun make-and-take craft fair returns to Saint Paul Benson!
EXPANDED SPACE IN OUR LOWER LEVEL • 2 – 5 PM • CASH/CHECKS ACCEPTED

- Crafting
- Homemade Lunch & Treats
- Coffee Bar
- Cookie Decorating
- Photobooth
- Visits with Santa
- Quilts & Handmade Goodies for Sale
- Much More!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE

ALL-CHURCH CROPWalk!

Join Youth & Children's Ministries Sun., Nov. 13 • 2PM

Meet in the parking lot and stroll along Corby Street to Ted & Wally's. Bring funds for a treat and make an online donation to CWS hunger relief efforts (search for "Saint Paul Benson" at events.crophungerwalk.org) **Thank you for helping to end hunger, one step at a time.**