



a haiku by
Rev. Marta Wheeler

my eyes await blooms

delicately scented peace

gorgeous peonies

Inspiration

NEWS FROM SAINT PAUL BENSON MAY 2023

PASTORAL PERSPECTIVE

*Be still and know that I am God.
I am the vine, and you are the branches.*

Psalm 46:10
John 15:5

These scriptures come to me when I think of my four years here. The chronology of events has been odd, marked by words like *before*, *during*, and *after* - pastoring during a pandemic is not for the faint of heart - but through it all I have had a deep trust and assurance that God has been and will continue to be with the people of Saint Paul Benson.

I have seen time and again how this congregation knows itself to be the vine and branches - a living extension of God's love in the world. We see this when we open our building to everything from tai chi to vaccine clinics to training sessions for area non-profits; when we host neighborhood events; our many partnerships with groups ranging from the MasterSingers to Benson First Friday to Methodist College to Refugee Women Rising; and in the diversity of our worship services and the people who come here to grow close to God.

As I move into the role of District Superintendent, a region that runs from Falls City to South Sioux City and from Omaha to Fremont, I look forward to hearing how Saint Paul grows in ministry, listening for God's call as the living vine and branches of God's love in the world.

I am thankful for my clergy and staff colleagues, the lay leadership, and the members of Saint Paul who have been faithful to God's call in spite of the unusual and difficult times experienced during the pandemic. May we continue to listen for God's urging, and may we continue to thrive as we answer the call to be rooted and grounded in faith - setting forth the branches of love and hope for all the world.

Peace to you,

Rev. Stephanie

Rev. Stephanie Ahlschwede

Financial News

The Church Council voted April 24 to enact an immediate spending freeze. All purchases will be reviewed by the Senior Pastor and Admin. Exec. Team (Church Council, Trustee, Finance and SPRC chairs) to discern our immediate financial priorities. The team will review expenses and look to increase our income so we can continue with the vital ministries of this church.

We ask members of our church family to consider making planned recurring contributions to the church to support this work. Thank you for your continued support.

Please direct questions to our Exec Team member Krisanne Weimer at weimerk75@gmail.com



Farewell Reception

You're invited to gather and say goodbye to
Rev. Stephanie Ahlschwede
Sunday, May 21 at 11:15 (following worship)
Let's send her off with our love and best wishes!

It's the birthday of the Church!
Worship May 27TH & 28TH
Break out your red finery and enjoy a powerful message, beautiful music & Holy Communion. Inspiring!

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

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SaintPaul@StPaulOmaha.org

SaintPaulBenson.org

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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

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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

SERMON-BY-PHONE
(402) 210-2091



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

During these May days, we welcome a variety of guest music as well as our own Joy Bells and The Choir. The Solid Brass Quartet will lead us in celebrating the **Sacrament of Holy Communion, May 07**. Morning worship **May 14** will be graced by the Bel Canto Duo (Darci Gamerl, oboe and David Downing, cello.) (Watch the June issue of Inspiration for a special concert announcement by the BC Duo concerning their Summer 2023 concert series!)

David Schack, organist, joins us as the Fifty Great Days of Easter end with our celebration of **Pentecost** over the **Memorial Day weekend**. You may know the Christian festival of Pentecost as the time we remember the gift of the Holy Spirit, as Jesus promised when he said, *"I will not leave you comfortless."* Did you know that Pentecost is celebrated in the Jewish tradition as Shavu'ot or the Festival of Weeks? It is the second of the three major festivals with both historical and agricultural significance, the first being Passover and the last, Sukkot. As our celebration of Pentecost is tied to the calendar date of Easter, so is the festival of Shavu'ot tied to the calendar date of Passover. We will celebrate our receiving of the Holy Spirit by wearing red, always the color of the United Methodist flame.



MONDAY MORNING MUSINGS

**IT'S TIME FOR THE UMC TO HAVE A
NEW DISCUSSION**

Rev. Jerry Brabec invites you to attend a 3-week study series centering on what it means to be United Methodist. The class will dive into Scripture readings and engage in conversations on the key points of **Reclaim. Revive. Renew.**

MONDAYS, MAY 8, 15, 22
10:30 AM | LIBRARY

The UMC is founded on grace, anchored in Scripture, and based in the teachings of Jesus Christ. Celebrate work being done by local churches and individual United Methodists as they live out their faith as people of God.

You got to have Faith

Rev. Faith Kubai

I'm so excited to have concluded my first official book study here at Saint Paul - "Learning to Pray" by Fr. James Martin. It was so rewarding to see how many people turned in each week and were willing to ask questions and learn how to continue building their relationships with God. On our last day of study, we were happy to connect with Rev. Marta Wheeler who shared different spiritual practices with the group (a real crowd-pleaser!) Be on the lookout as we begin a new study soon; it will be held via Zoom.

I was invited to a private event on April 15th by one of our 3:00 PM Prayer Service members. I had the privilege of meeting more than 100 people in attendance and was given a chance to speak to them. By Saint Paul reaching out in this way, five new worshipers attended our Prayer Service. One attendee shared she had not participated in Sunday worship for 17 years! What a wonderful way to welcome worshipers to Saint Paul church!

All are welcome to join us in the Chapel for more than prayers every Sunday at 3:00 PM. Meet new friends and worship together!

**Embrace the
Love of Giving.**



Celebrate God's loving embrace with a gift to Saint Paul Benson. Offering envelopes are located in the pew racks and the church office or make a gift on our website (simply click the "Donate" button for instructions.)

Giving online? Be sure to use the EFT (electronic check) option rather than a credit card. Saint Paul pays a 3% fee for each credit card transaction, reducing your donation! If you need help with set-up, call the church office.

*Your Support of Saint Paul
Benson is Important and
Appreciated!*

From the Desk of . . .

Rev. Marta Wheeler

Eleven folks of all ages gathered at Lake Cunningham for a Holy Listening experience April 23. Once we walked awhile, we became quieter and more attentive to our surroundings. It was then that we felt the incredible holiness of God's creation. According to Paul McMahan, we viewed 18 species of birds in their natural habitat!

We applaud those who visit with people who are not able to attend worship and are seeking more volunteers to make a phone call each week. You really do make a difference!

Holy Listening

In May, four prayer services at senior living homes are scheduled. You are welcome to attend and greet members. Who knew you were missed so much?!

THURSDAY, MAY 11

10:00 AM

Elk Ridge Village Independent Living
19303 Seward St.

1 PM

The Heritage Memory Care Unit
1111 Sterling Ridge Drive

WEDNESDAY, MAY 17

3 PM

Immanuel Village Independent Living
6803 N. 68th Plaza

THURSDAY, MAY 18

10:30 AM

Astoria (formerly Brighton Gardens)
9220 Western Ave.

WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

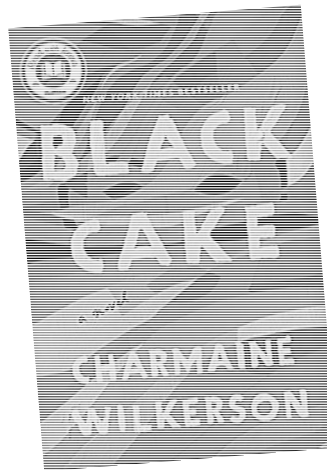
All are welcome either in-person at Immanuel Village or join the fun via Zoom

"BLACK CAKE: A NOVEL"

By Charmaine Wilkerson

SATURDAY, MAY 13 AT 9 AM

Meet on the 2nd floor "Hub" through the south entrance. Call Connie Crawford for info 402-660-8211.



YOUTH MISSION TRIP MAY 30 – JUNE 2



3 Ways YOU Can Support Our Youth:

1. Bring single-serve packaged snacks between now and Sunday, May 21st to the church office or Mission Central in the Sanctuary
2. Homemade treats may be delivered on Sunday, May 28th.
3. Financial donations can be made by noting "youth mission trip" or using online giving.

We thank you for your prayers and your support!

FLAG CORPS!

A SUMMERTIME FAVORITE RETURNS!

Everyone is welcome to join the fun (this is not a "members only" event!) Kylie Robinson returns as our coach, and we anticipate marching in the Heartland Pride, Field Club Fourth of July, and Benson Days parades. Sign up with Kristin in the office!

Join us for weekly practice, beginning:

TUESDAY, MAY 30

6:30 PM

SAVE THE DATE:
Annual Women's Retreat

OCTOBER 15/16

**St. Benedict Center
Schuyler**

Watch for Details Coming Soon!

YOUR DESTINATION FOR BOOKS, BOOKS, BOOKS & MORE!

EPISTLE STOP

LOCATED JUST OUTSIDE THE SANCTUARY

Stop in during office hours or before/after worship. You never know what you'll discover. Books priced at \$1 each (or less!)

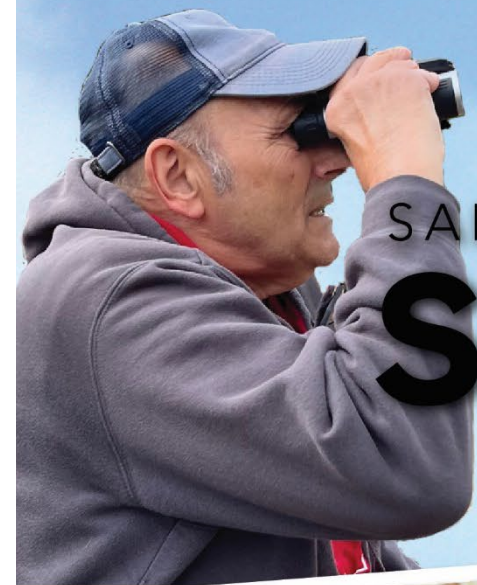
Your purchases help support our United Women in Faith.

Holy Listening Bird Watching Excursion
Tom Neneman and Feathered Friend



SAINT PAUL BENSON

snapshots



Easter's Finest Clergy Team
Pastors Jerry, Stephanie, Faith & Marta



The Hunt Was On!
Bennett K., Paul M., Caleb K., Elliot K.



Volunteers Hit the Ground Running
Jane Baasch, Ann Parmenter & Peggy Haskins began yard cleanup (with help from Connie Crawford & Mike Haskins.)

Thanks to photographers Nancy McMahon, Marta Wheeler & Connie Crawford.

Share your Saint Paul photos!
Email or bring to the Church Office

Congratulations, Graduates!



JACKSON AVILA

Son of Amy & Rolando
Omaha Northwest H.S.
Will attend Metro
Community College



KAYLEE LEMPKE

Daughter of Jen & Mike
Deb Kelley, Grandmother
Millard West H.S.
Will attend University of
North Carolina to study
dance & choreography



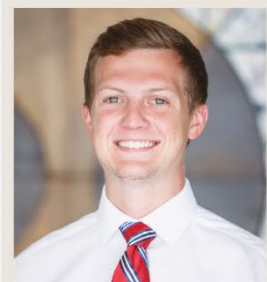
KYLE MINIKUS

Son of Erik Minikus &
Macayla McCollum
Kathy & Wayne Minikus,
Grandparents
Manatee High School
Bradenton, Florida



ABBY MOMMSEN

Daughter of Amy & Andy
Mary Stolzer, Grandmother
Nebraska Wesleyan
Bachelor of Science in
Exercise Science



JACOB ROBINSON

Son of Susie & Hank
Mary Stolzer, Grandmother
University of North Carolina
Doctorate of Pharmacy



United Women in Faith

All Women Welcome!

SATURDAY, MAY 6

9:30 AM ROOM 111
COFFEE & PROGRAM

THIS MONTH'S SPEAKER Rev. Jerry Brabec

Learn about and Discuss the Opportunities of

MISSION U "Living the Kin-dom"

Each year, attendees prepare for faithful living and action by engaging in transformative educational experiences which motivate, inform, and enrich our commitment to global ministry.

This year's event will be held July 7-8 at First UMC in Wichita, Kansas.

Join Mission U to explore the good news and what it means for our lives!

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

**** BUILDING CLOSED MONDAY, MAY 29 FOR MEMORIAL DAY ****

SUNDAYS

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 (off 5/14)	Room 313
3:00 PM	Prayer Service (off 5/14)	Roth Chapel

MONDAYS

9:00 AM	Lectio Divina	Offsite
9:00 AM	Quilters	Offsite
10:30 AM	Reclaim/Revive/Renew Study (May 8, 15, 22)	Library
7:00 PM	MasterSingers (off 5/1)	Roth Chapel

TUESDAYS

1:30 PM	Prayer Shawl Ministry	Library
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WEDNESDAYS

4:00 PM	Tai Chi	Room 111
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THURSDAYS

5:45 PM	Joy Bells Rehearsal (off 5/4)	Balcony
7:00 PM	The Choir Rehearsal (off 5/4)	Room 250
7:00 PM	MasterSingers (5/11, 5/18)	Roth Chapel

SATURDAYS

5:00 PM	Worship	Roth Chapel
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MONDAYS - THURSDAYS

4:00 PM (Varies)	Omaha Girls Rock	Rooms 254-6
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SATURDAY, MAY 6

9:30 AM	United Women in Faith	Room 111
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SUNDAY, MAY 7

3:00 PM	Piano Recital	Sanctuary
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SATURDAY, MAY 13

9:00 AM	Book Club	Immanuel Village
12:00 PM	Omaha Girls Rock Showcase	Wesley Hall
3:00 PM	Piano Recital	Sanctuary

SUNDAY, MAY 14

11:00 AM	Festival of the Christian Home	Gathering Area
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SATURDAY, MAY 20

6:30 PM	Piano Recital	Sanctuary
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SUNDAY, MAY 21

11:00 AM	Rev. Steph Farewell Reception	Parlor
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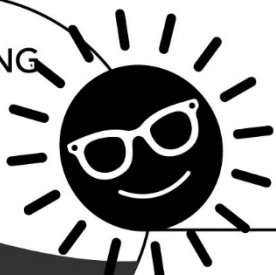
FRIDAY, MAY 26

7:00 PM	MasterSingers	Roth Chapel
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TUESDAY, MAY 30

6:30 PM	Flag Corps	Courtyard
All Day	Youth Mission Trip (through 6/2)	Camp Fontenelle

CELEBRATING
THE
FESTIVAL
OF THE
CHRISTIAN
HOME



Spring Fling SUNDAY MAY 14

Following 10AM Worship

The Sunday School students invite you to join them to celebrate the Festival of the Christian Home in our Courtyard following worship.

**Refreshments, entertainment, artwork
and perhaps some surprises!**

Let's celebrate together the many ways we experience God in all forms of family.



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



PRAYERS *for God's People*

Honorarium

In honor of Susie & Hank Robinson by Mary Stolzer.

Christian Sympathy

To the family of Ralph C. Anderson in his death.

To the family of Dorothy Hallstrom in her death.

To the family of Ione Marshall in her death.

To Doug & Maria Ramsey and Kaye Ramsey on the death of mother and wife, Jill.

Recent Hospitalizations

Jean Schmid Diana Wenzel
Janelle Goding Gary Hahn
Vance Taylor

Memorials

For Marian Bailey: Jane & Larry Baasch, Elizabeth & Tom Bailey, Cydney & William Craig, Christine & Robert Croy, Dee & Bill Davis, Nancy Mattly, Kathleen & Douglas Duncan, Judith Good, Deborah Halley, Jill & Shane Keller, Keith Koerlink, Gladys Lantz, Sharon & David Lybarger, Lynda and Garry Martens, Vagas Mathiesen, Marilyn Mikula, Ruth & A. J. Mudd, Susan & Michael Opal, Jane Palmer, J. A. Dworak & L. B. Schlichtemeier, Linda & Keith Skinner, Maureen & James Waldron, Marta & Dennis Wheeler, Linda & Russell Ethridge, Mary Ann Kirchner, Jerry Brabec

For H. Carl Camp: Marta & Dennis Wheeler

For Dorothy Hallstrom: Mary Stolzer

For Loved Ones: Judy Buono

For Margie Schuck: Jayne Meisinger

For O. B. Curtis: Jayne Meisinger

For Nick Stolzer: Jon Stolzer

For Rozanne Christensen: Karen Spencer-May & Marc May

Stay Connected



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on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter or YouTube.