

Inspiration

NEWS FROM SAINT PAUL BENSON

JULY 2023

PASTORAL PERSPECTIVE



“With great excitement and a gratitude, I officially join this wonderful community as your new lead pastor.

It is truly an honor and privilege to serve with you in this season of growth, transformation, and revival at Saint Paul Benson.”

Faith

Rev. Faith Kubai

I want to express my heartfelt appreciation for the warm welcome and love that you have shown me this past year as your Associate Pastor. Your continued kindness and hospitality will make my transition into this new role a smooth and joyful experience. I can't wait to get to know each one of you personally, building meaningful relationships as we journey together as a church family.

As your Lead Pastor, my vision for Saint Paul is to see us grow in our love for God, our love for one another, and our impact on the world around us – all to create a church that is welcoming to all.

In the coming months, you can expect a renewed focus on biblical teaching and discipleship. I am passionate about the word of God and its power to bring transformation and healing to our lives. People of all ages will find relevant and engaging activities here through fellowship, small groups, and meaningful connections. Saint Paul's rich history of teamwork will be renewed so that all can participate in the revitalization of our church and to reach our goals of growth. I look forward to working with each of you to find the spot that best utilizes your unique talents. In the coming weeks, be on the lookout for updates on upcoming events, ministry opportunities, and ways to get involved.

As we move forward, we will also seek to extend love and compassion beyond the church walls. I believe that the church should be a beacon of hope and a force for positive change in our community. Together, we will engage in acts of service, partner with local organizations, and reach out to those in need with the love of Christ through evangelism as we enlarge our Saint Paul family.

Be assured that I am committed to transparency, open communication, and accessibility. I am here to serve and walk alongside you in your joys and challenges. My door is always open and your feedback, ideas, and concerns are always welcome as we work together to fulfill God's purposes for our church. (See page 2)

TAKE PRIDE! IN SAINT PAUL

Omaha celebrates Pride this month, culminating in the Heartland Pride Festival and Parade Saturday, July 15 - a sunny and joy-filled experience for the whole family!

You're invited to march with the Saint Paul Flag Corps and show off your love of ALL of God's children. Watch for meet-up details in an upcoming eNews & worship's Mission Matters.

Saint Paul Benson is proud to be a reconciling and affirming United Methodist congregation!

SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

BEL CANTO DUO

LIVE ON THE LAWN

**FRIDAYS
7PM
JULY 28
AUGUST 18
SEPTEMBER 8**

JOIN US AT
SAINT PAUL BENSON!

DARCI GRIFFITH (SAXOPHONE) & DAVID DOWNING (CELLO)

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

402.556.2433
SaintPaul@StPaulOmaha.org

SaintPaulBenson.org

Staff

Rev. Faith Kubai
Lead Pastor

Rev. Jerry Brabec
Minister of Worship

Rev. Marta Wheeler
Associate Pastor
Spiritual Director & Faith Formation
Youth Ministries

Kristin Camp
Communications & Operations
(through July 7)

Noni Cambridge
Bookkeeper

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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



Rev. Jerry Brabec

July continues the *"In the Beginning..."* sermon series, with preaching each week focused on iconic Old Testament characters from the book of Genesis.

Our weekend observation of the national holiday, **Independence Day** is made even more special with the Sacrament of Holy Communion and the celebration of appointment for our new lead pastor, the Rev. Faith Kubai. Morning worship **July 02** will be graced by the Joy Bells and The Choir. The Choir will offer ministry through music each Sunday of July, earning a much-deserved break during August. 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.



Friendly Faces Needed!

Do you frequently receive compliments on your "winning smile" and "friendly, outgoing manner"?

Do you have the desire to serve?

Saint Paul needs you!

One of the first people folks meet at both services (Saturdays 5:00 PM in Roth Chapel and Sundays 10:00 AM in the Sanctuary) is the **usher**. If you would like to "step forward" and help where needed, talk with Jerry Brabec or let the church office know. You won't be sorry!



PASTORAL PERSPECTIVE

(Continued)

I am thrilled to embark on this journey with you. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, seeking His guidance and empowerment as we fulfill the calling that He has placed upon our lives and our church. Together, we will grow, impact lives, and bring glory to God.

May the grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

Faith

Rev. Faith Kubai

WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

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

"OUR MISSING HEARTS"

By Celeste Ng

"a deeply suspenseful and heartrending novel about the unbreakable love between a mother and child in a society consumed by fear"

SATURDAY, JULY 9 AT 9 AM

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



Prayers for Safety

Arsene Kasusa has enlisted in the U.S. Army, and started basic training at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. Please keep him, his parents (Damien and Bertha) and siblings in your prayers.



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.

PRAYERS *for God's People*

Honorarium

In honor Kristin Camp: Gladys Lantz

Recent Hospitalizations

Susan Arnold Annette Farquhar

Memorials

For Kent Anderson: Jerry Brabec, Marta Wheeler

For Mary & Carl Buono: Judy Buono

For Bill Repair: Marta Wheeler, Jerry Brabec, Jan Biga, Belinda Johnson

Memorials

For Dorothy Hallstrom: Mary Stolzer

For Margie Schuck: Jayne Meisinger

For O.B. Curtis: Jayne Meisinger

For Caryl Stearnes: Julianne & Gary Gonzales, Marleen & Gordon Gunderson, Donna Hodgens, Kathleen Hunter, Mary Ann Kirchner, Jayne Meisinger, Kathy Thornton & Michael Murphy, Maureen Gist, Max & Ron Nachtigal, Christina Stewart, Mary Prestito, Cindi & Tom Ingaam, June & Phil Simpson

SAINT PAUL BENSON
snaph  **ots**



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

***Beauty Abounds**
Pastor Marta enjoys a shady spot and Bel Canto Duo*



***Grace Warta**
Ziplining at Camp Fontanelle*



***Leading Worship**
Pastor Faith led Friday morning devotions at Annual Conference*



***Magical Musical Treat**
Bel Canto Duo Concert - June 24
Don't miss their next show: Friday, July 28*



***Round & Round**
Our youth tested out the new labyrinth at Camp Fontanelle*



***Hard-workin' Crew**
The trip to Camp Fontanelle was a lot of work and a lot of fun!*

RAI FAMILY UPDATE



Submitted by Susie Robinson

Raju and Dhan Rai courageously ventured from a refugee camp in Nepal to Omaha, NE in October 2010. Their three children, Mani, Subam and Monika accompanied them. By sponsoring the family, Saint Paul Benson members played a significant role in their immigration and successful transition into the United States. We would like the congregation to receive an update on the family.

Raju Rai works at Quality Pork where he has been employed for many years. His wife, Dhan, was the primary caregiver for her father, Narbu, who also immigrated to the U.S. and lived with the family. Since his death, she has worked occasionally but is primarily a homemaker. The oldest child, Mani, is married to Sapana.



The second son, Subam, is married to Sumika, and they expect a daughter, Anaya, to be born at the end of June. Mani and Subam work at Fiserv.

Monika, the youngest who was just 6 years old when she arrived in the U.S., graduated from high school in May, 2023. She began classes at UNO this summer and will continue toward a degree in the fall. The photo above was taken as the family celebrated her graduation.

All members of the family have earned citizenship in the United States. They recently moved to new homes in northwest Omaha and are active and dedicated members of their church.

Thank you to all who took part in sponsoring and supporting the Rai family. It began a challenging but successful journey and life in the United States.



The Rai Family in 2012.



Then 6-year-old Monika greeted at the airport in 2010.

A Letter from the Editor



This edition of the Inspiration is my last – or at least my last as a full-time employee. My final in-office day is Friday, July 7.

The clergy team is working with SPRC to assess office-related needs and hire a replacement. Please be patient as the process unfolds. Your willingness to volunteer to take care of tasks – no matter how minor you think they are – would be appreciated. Consider using your unique talents!

It has been an absolute privilege to serve as your “Communications and Operations Coordinator” – a fancy title that encompasses such disparate things as graphic design and shoveling snow. It’s been exhausting and exhilarating; a lot of worry and a lot of fun. Every ounce of energy spent over the last two years was for the betterment of Saint Paul. My love for this church and for each of you has served as the guiding light.

I am forever indebted to Jerry, Marta and Faith for their support and good cheer, and to Marta Brabec, Kathy Minikus, Connie Crawford, Peggy Haskins, Belinda Johnson and so many others for countless hours of help, laughter, chatting. What an honor to work with all of you!

There is still so much to do but I am ready to return to Volunteer Church Lady status.

See you Sunday,

Kristin Camp

BENSON DAYS JULY 29/30

Sign up to VOLUNTEER and help Benson Days!
Easy online form available:
[bensondays.com/volunteer](https://www.bensondays.com/volunteer)

Financial Update

The Administrative Executive Team is pleased to share that measures taken to correct Saint Paul’s financial strain have had good results. We will continue to monitor and manage expenses.

Your generosity through second-mile giving has helped tremendously! We were able to complete repairs to both the Sanctuary/Fellowship Hall air conditioning unit and the elevator.

Please continue to keep Saint Paul in your prayers and increase your giving as you are able. Working together as a team will help our church thrive and grow. Thank You!

Note of Thanks: As my role as District Superintendent begins, I want to thank you for four incredible years at Saint Paul. Your support was evident from the very beginning, helped through the pandemic, and is still felt today. Thank you to my clergy colleagues and staff, the many volunteers, and those who serve in lay leadership roles for your courageous and creative guidance. I look forward to seeing what is next as Saint Paul grows into the future.

Rev. Stephanie Ahlschwede

From the Desk of . . .

Rev. Marta Wheeler

Greetings to you in this sunny time of year, the time that we will long for, come winter!

I am pleased to begin this leg of the Saint Paul journey with Rev. Faith Kubai. We welcome her many gifts! After being here for a year, she has the advantage of already loving and caring for you. **Will you join me in keeping your eyes open for new experiences, and deeper ways of trusting in God as we learn from one another?**

Thank you for sharing your gifts, so that Saint Paul Benson will continue our hopeful witness to children, youth, and the community with God's all-inclusive love.



Holy Listening

Rev. Marta Wheeler invites you to connect with the heart of God through prayer in a beautiful setting.

**MONDAY, JULY 10 • 7PM
MEMORIAL PARK
ROSE GARDEN**
(60th & Underwood)

All are welcome to meander the gardens to delight in the smells and sights of summer.

UWF BAKELESS BAKE SALE

A bit of news we have today,
A bakeless bake sale is on its way.
If in these busy days you would bake
A pie or cookies, even a cake.
You'd be surprised if you counted the cost
Of materials, heat and time you had lost.
Cooking for sale is extra work,
Yet no one really wants to shirk.
So--we have a plan that is really grand.
And feel you all would understand.
So, in an envelope please put the price
Of a pie or cake or something nice.
Without fuss or bother you've done your part,
And surely you'll give with a willing heart.
So, this is the end of our tale.
Hoping you'll help in our **Bakeless Bake Sale!**
Direct your UWF donation via the Church Office or
to Lorraine Hahn, treasurer. *Thank you!*

Our July Calendar

JULY COMMUNAL OFFERING: HABITAT FOR HUMANITY
Founded in 1984, Habitat for Humanity of Omaha is a grassroots organization that builds and renovates houses, forges community partnerships, and breaks down barriers. Habitat Omaha has partnered with over 2,149 families and individuals so far, and this year, will change the lives of over more 200 families in the Omaha metro area.

OFFICE HOURS

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

HOLIDAY CLOSURE

The office will be closed July 3 and 4 in observance of the holiday.

SUNDAYS

8:45 AM	Soul Journeys for Women	Library
9:15 AM	The Choir Rehearsal	Room 250
10:00 AM	Worship	
	In-Person in the Sanctuary and YouTube Livestream	
11:00 AM	Nepali Worship	Fellowship Hall
3:00 PM	Prayer Service	Roth Chapel

MONDAYS

9:00 AM	Lectio Divina	Offsite
10:30 AM	Monday Morning Musings (begins 7/10)	Library

TUESDAYS

10:00 AM	Staff Meeting	Library
1:30 PM	Prayer Shawl Ministry	Library
6:30 PM	Flag Corps Practice	Courtyard
7:00 PM	Rev. Kubai Book Study (begins 7/11)	Zoom

SATURDAYS

5:00 PM	Worship	Roth Chapel
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SUNDAY, JULY 2

11:15 AM	Rev. Kubai Installation Reception	Parlor
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TUESDAY, JULY 4

9:45 AM	Flag Corps to Field Club Parade	34 th & Woolworth
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WEDNESDAY, JULY 5

4:00 PM	Tai Chi	Room 111
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FRIDAY, JULY 7

8:00 AM	ENOA Foster Grandparents	Fellowship Hall
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SATURDAY, JULY 8

9:00 AM	Book Club	Immanuel Village
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MONDAY, JULY 10

7:00 PM	Holy Listening in the Rose Garden	Memorial Park
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TUESDAY, JULY 11

9:00 AM	Health Ministries Team	Zoom
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SATURDAY, JULY 15

10:00 AM	Heartland Pride Parade	Capitol District
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FRIDAY, JULY 28

7:00 PM	Bel Canto Concert	Courtyard
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MONDAY, JULY 31

8:00 AM	ENOA Senior Companions	Fellowship Hall
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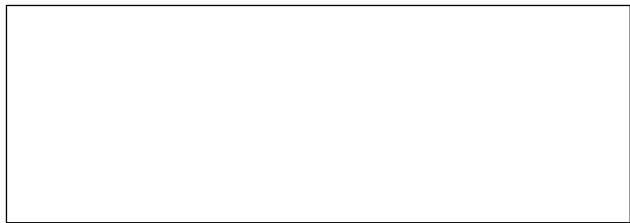
The Tai Chi class will be on summer break after July 5. Make plans to join in when class resumes August 30.
Namaste



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Did You Know?

We Have Space for Your Programs and Ministries!



Not only is Saint Paul your favorite place to worship, it's also prime real estate in the popular Benson neighborhood!

Do you know of a club, organization, business start-up that needs space? How about someone who dreams of starting a yoga studio or an arts academy? We may have the space for which they've been searching.

Contact the Church Office or speak to Revs. Faith, Jerry or Marta for room rates and availability.



Let's Make a Deal!

Stay Connected



FOLLOW, LIKE, SUBSCRIBE AND FRIEND US!
We're easy to find by searching for "SaintPaulBenson" on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter or YouTube.