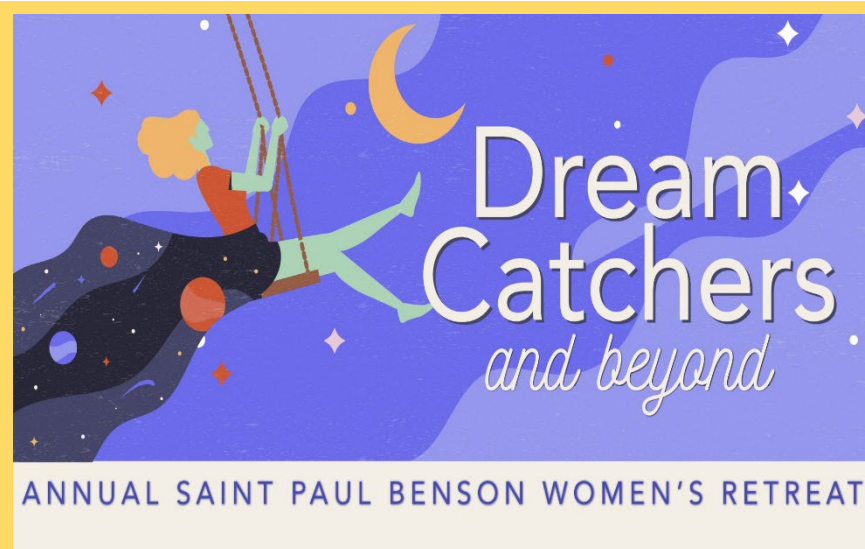




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ANNUAL SAINT PAUL BENSON WOMEN'S RETREAT

*Save the Date!*

*Learn to Prayerfully Interpret  
Your Own Dreams*

Join Us ~ Invite a Friend!

**February 25-26, 2024**

2PM Sunday through 1PM Monday

Saint Benedict Center, Schuyler, Nebraska

\$103/Double Room or \$110 Single

Includes Lodging, Meals, Book and Craft Supplies

Contact Rev. Marta Wheeler if you were not already  
previously registered

MWheeler@stpaulomaha.org 402-556-2433

*Stay Connected*



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



NEWS FROM ST. PAUL UNITED METHODIST

JANUARY 2023

*Pastoral Perspective*

*Beloved Congregation,*

*As the festive lights twinkle and the joyous melodies of Christmas continue to resound, I am filled with an overwhelming sense of gratitude for each one of you. This season has been a testament to the boundless love and grace we have experienced together, and I am honored to share this message of Christmas and the New Year with you!*

*In the radiant glow of Christmas, we have celebrated the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ—the embodiment of hope, love, and the promise of eternal life. May the warmth of God's love fill your homes and may the joy of Christ's arrival bring peace to your hearts. As a church family, we continue to embrace the true meaning of Christmas in our actions, spreading kindness, and embracing the spirit of generosity to all God's people.*

*As we begin a new year, let it be a canvas awaiting the brushstrokes of God's divine plan for our lives and our church. I speak blessings of hope, peace, love, joy, and spiritual growth over each of you. May the coming year be marked by a deeper connection with our Creator, fresh revelations, and unwavering faith. Reflecting on the year gone by, I am inspired by the resilience and unity that define our church family. Your commitment to each other and to the mission of our church is the driving force behind our shared success. Let us carry this spirit forward into the new year, knowing that together, there is no challenge too great and no dream too ambitious for us to achieve!*

*I extend my heartfelt gratitude to each of you for your dedication, support, and love. Your presence enriches our church community, and I am excited about the incredible journey we will embark on in the coming year 2024.*

*I am also thrilled to announce that we will be delving into the profound and timeless teachings encapsulated in "The Lord's Prayer." as we begin the new year. This series promises to be a transformative journey, exploring the depths of our connection with God and the significance of the prayer Jesus Himself taught us. Together, let's open our hearts to the wisdom and guidance this sacred prayer offers.*

*Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a New Year filled with abundant blessings, growth, and fulfillment!*

*With Love and Blessings,*

*Faith*

Rev. Faith Kubai  
Lead Pastor



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  
Children's & Youth Ministries

Aretha Gearhart  
Communications and  
Administrative Assistant

Noni Cambridge  
Bookkeeper

*Community Counseling*

Tabitha Jameson, MA, LIMHP  
402.354.6891 ext. 23

The Inspiration is published monthly. Submit info by the 19<sup>th</sup> of the month to be included in the next month's issue.

*Stay Connected*  
@SaintPaulBenson  
f i y t

*inWorship*

Rev. Jerry Brabec

inWorship

Our first worship experiences of 2024 will be to celebrate a Wesleyan watch for the New Year prior to its arrival on Saturday, **December 30** at 5:00 p.m. in the Roth Chapel. The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated at our Sunday service, **December 31** at 10:00 in the Sanctuary and we will repeat the vows of the Wesleyan covenant, a New Year tradition at Saint Paul. David Schack, organ and The Choir will bring special music "fit for a king" to worship on **January 07**, Epiphany weekend. The second weekend of **January**,

Pastors Faith and Marta will begin a preaching series centered around The Lord's Prayer, that will take on a spiritual journey that will end as the next liturgical season of Lent begins.

Our house band under the leadership of John Hough will offer musical leadership on **January 14** at 10:00 a.m. Both in-person services are graced by the Joy Bells offering their ministry *through* music on the weekend of **January 20/21**. The closing weekend of **January 27/28** will focus on congregational responses to The Lord's Prayer. Be present for worship and learn what it means to pray...see you in church!

From the Desk of . . .

*Rev. Marta Wheeler*

*Learning, Serving, Praying, and Playing*

My heart is full of gratefulness for the youth and dedicated parents that helped in December with the Advent Fair, setting up the luminaries around the church, reading part of the narrative for the Children's Christmas Program, and covering the concession stand for the Omaha Girls Rock Flea market. *Your energy and helpfulness is very much appreciated!!*

January 14<sup>th</sup>-4-5:30 pm-meet by the chapel doors at 4 pm and proceed to the Youth Room on 4<sup>th</sup> floor for food and fun!

January 28, 2-5 pm-Ice Skating and Sledding at Mahoney State Park (contingent upon cold weather)

February 1<sup>st</sup> 6 pm Winter Jam, \$15 admission-cash only. Mid-America Center in Council Bluffs. (performers: Crowder, Lecae, Cain, Katy Nichole, and more)

God's blessings of peace and love to all in this New Year!



United Women in Faith

*All Women Welcome!*  
**WEDNESDAY,  
JANUARY 3**  
9:30 AM ROOM 111  
GENERAL MEETING

**FAMILY ICE SKATING & SLEDDING PARTY**

**JANUARY 28 |  
TIME: TBD**

**MAHONEY STATE PARK  
28500 W. PARK HIGHWAY,  
ASHLAND, NE 68003**



**WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB**

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

**"Hello Beautiful"  
By Ann Napolitano**

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 13 | 9 AM**  
Meet on the 2nd floor "Hub" through the main entrance. Call Connie for info 402-660-8211.

Building Office Closures

Monday | January 1

Tuesday | January 2

Monday | January 15

*Our January Calendar*

**COMMUNAL OFFERING:** In the 1700s, John and Charles Wesley visited prisoners at Oxford Castle in England, sharing food, medicine and Holy Communion. Those early Methodists began a rich tradition that continues today. The annual Human Relations Day offering received helps United Methodists connect with community ministries that teach and advocate for justice, especially among people struggling to survive in the margins of society.

**OFFICE HOURS**

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

**SUNDAYS**

8:45 A Soul Journeys for Women Library

10:00 AM Worship In-Person in the Sanctuary and YouTube Livestream

11:00 AM Nepali Worship Fellowship Hall

11:15 AM Sunday School Third Floor

3:00 PM Prayer Service Roth Chapel

**MONDAYS**

9:00 AM Quilters Offsite

10:15 AM Lectio Divina Library

10:30 AM Morning Musings Library

**TUESDAYS**

10:00 AM Staff Meeting Library

1:30 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry Library

7:00 PM Rev. Kubai Book Stud Zoom

**WEDNESDAYS**

4:00 PM Tai Chi Room 111

7:00 PM Rev. Wheeler's Advent Devotional Class – Zoom

**THURSDAYS**

5:45 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal (Jan 4, 18, 25) Balcony

7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal (Jan 4, 18, 25) Rm. 250

**SATURDAYS**

5:00 PM Worship Roth Chapel

**WEEKDAYS**

4:00 – 8:00 PM Omaha Girls Rock WH 254-62

**MONDAY, JANUARY 1 and TUESDAY, JANUARY 2**

Building Closed

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3**

9:30 AM UW in Faith General Meeting Room 111

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 4**

5:45 PM Joy Bells Rehearsal Balcony

7:00 PM The Choir Rehearsal Room 250

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 6**

5:00 PM Worship Roth Chapel

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 7**

8:45 AM Soul Journeys for Women Library

9:30 AM The Choir Rehearsal Room 250

10:00 AM Worship Sanctuary and YouTube Livestream

11:00 AM Nepali Worship Wesley Hall

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 13**

9:00 AM Book Club Offsite

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 14**

8:45 AM Soul Journeys for Women Library

10:00 AM Worship Sanctuary and YouTube Livestream

11:00 AM Nepali Worship Fellowship Hall

11:15 AM Children's Sunday School Third Floor

3:00 PM Prayer Service Roth Chapel

**MONDAY, JANUARY 15**

Office Closed

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 18**

5:45 PM Joy Bells Rehearsal Balcony

7:00 PM The Choir Rehearsal Room 250

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 20**

9:00 AM United Methodist Men's Group Room 111

5:00 PM Worship Service Roth Chapel

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 21**

8:45 AM Soul Journeys for Women Library

10:00 AM Worship Sanctuary and YouTube Livestream

11:00 AM Nepali Worship Fellowship Hall

11:15 AM Children's Sunday School Third Floor

3:00 PM Prayer Service Roth Chapel

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 25**

5:45 PM Joy Bells Rehearsal Balcony

7:00 PM The Choir Rehearsal Room 250

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 27**

5:00 PM Worship Service Roth Chapel

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 28**

8:45 AM Soul Journeys for Women Library

10:00 AM Worship Sanctuary and YouTube Livestream

11:00 AM Nepali Worship Fellowship Hall

11:15 AM Children's Sunday School Third Floor

3:00 PM Prayer Service Roth Chapel

\*Time TBD Skating/Sledding Party Mahoney State Park

**PRAYERS** *for God's People*

*Christian Sympathy*

To the family and friends of Vance Taylor.  
To the family and friends of Mary Rich.

*Recent Hospitalizations*

Deb Stecker  
Tom Neneman

*Memorial Gifts*

In memory of Family Members: Judy Buono

In memory of Ramona Repair: Alan & Kathi Rowch



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

## Welcome, Aretha!

It is with great joy and excitement that I extend a warm welcome to Aretha Gearhart, our new Assistant Administrator and Communication Coordinator. We are delighted to have her join our church family, bringing with her a wealth of skills, dedication, and a heart for service!

Aretha has been married to her husband, Erik, for 10 years and together they share a blended family of five children, Tanner (28), Jacob (25), Abbey (24), Emily (21) and Elizabeth (12). Aretha is also the proud Grandma of Avery (6) and Owen (2).



— “ —  
Aretha says, “Everyone has been so kind, welcoming and helpful as I am transitioning into my new role! God places you exactly where you are supposed to be, exactly when you are supposed to be there, and I am so grateful for this opportunity He has given me to serve this congregation as well as the community we serve together as St. Paul United Methodist.”  
— ” —

In Aretha, we have found not only a competent professional but also a passionate individual who is committed to enhancing our church's administrative efficiency and communication outreach. As we embark on this new journey together, let us embrace her with open hearts and extend the warmth and hospitality that define our faith community.

To our volunteers, Kristin Camp and Sue Bacon, I want to express our deepest gratitude for your unwavering support during the transitional period. Your dedication has been instrumental in maintaining the smooth functioning of our church operations, and we are truly thankful for your selfless contributions.

May this new chapter bring blessings, growth, and shared successes to our church.

*Faith*

Rev. Faith Kubai  
Lead Pastor

## Church Leadership Summit 2024

Rev. Faith Kubai

As we joyfully celebrate the Christmas season and eagerly anticipate the arrival of the New Year, I extend heartfelt wishes of love, peace, and joy to each of you and your families.

In the spirit of hope and renewal, I am excited to share with you an invitation to our Church Leadership Summit on January 21st, 2024, in the Fellowship Hall. We will begin at 11:15 am with a special Brunch provided by the Men's Group. This summit will serve as a beacon guiding us into the new year with purpose and unity.

Our time together will be a source of inspiration and strategic planning, setting the stage for a year filled with shared vision and impactful ministry. Your leadership is invaluable, and your insights will be key as we chart the course for our church's journey in 2024.

Following the summit, we will engage in group planning sessions to translate our collective vision into actionable plans for the various ministries and activities within our church. Your participation in these sessions is crucial, and I am confident that our collaboration will yield fruitful results. Together, let us strengthen our commitment to serving our congregation and community with passion and purpose.

May this festive season fill your hearts with joy and the promise of a prosperous New Year.  
With love and care!