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### Pastoral Perspective

As the chill of winter wraps its icy embrace around us and blankets of snow adorn our surroundings, I want to extend my warmest greetings to each of you.

In the midst of the frosty air and wintry landscapes, may we find comfort in the warmth of fellowship and the light of God's love shining brightly in our hearts. It's my prayer that you find renewed strength and inspiration in the love and grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. May God's presence continue to fill your hearts with peace, joy, and hope as you journey through the days ahead.

We had a recent leaders Training/meeting and I want to take a moment to extend my sincere gratitude to each of St. Paul leaders for their wholehearted participation. At the end of the meeting, we had resolutions for this year which formed out the Theme for this year. **BUILDING STRONGER BONDS: CONNECTING, GROWING AND SERVING.** By embracing the theme of "Building Stronger Bonds: Connecting, Growing and Serving," the church can create a holistic environment that nurtures spiritual growth, fosters genuine relationships, maximizes resources for kingdom purposes, and promotes the importance of family and community both within and beyond the church walls. This year we also would love you to help us in various communication channels and marketing strategies to promote church events, programs, and outreach initiatives. This could involve leveraging your social media pages like Facebook and others which will help in community outreach efforts to reach a wider audience and invite participation.

### *Building Stronger Bonds, Connecting, Growing and Serving*

We continue with our series "The Lord's Prayer" which is aimed to help us in our spiritual growth, deepen our understanding of prayer, foster community engagement, enrich our worship experiences, empower mission and outreach efforts, and cultivate a vibrant culture of prayer within our church and our own lives. Through this series, we are invited to explore, internalize, and live out the truths and principles embedded in the prayer that Jesus taught His disciples.

Lent period is here, a time of reflection, repentance, and spiritual preparation that commemorates the 40 days Jesus spent fasting in the wilderness, as described in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke. This year we will be exploring a series " THE WANDERING HEART" A series that encourages us to spiritual introspection, seeking to guide us through a journey of self-examination, repentance, and renewal in preparation for Easter.

(Continued on pg. 2)

### Confirmation Classes Beginning Soon!

Rev. Kubai, Brabec, and Wheeler will meet with interested youth (along with their parents) grades 7 and up on Feb. 11th. On this Sunday from 4-5 pm, the plan will be laid out for the Confirmation Classes. The anticipated completion is on Easter Sunday, March 31 st .

If your child or grandchild is interested, please email and further information will be revealed. This is a good way to increase understanding of the UMC and relationship with God that will launch the youth into further faithful service!

### Wandering Heart

Sermon Series Kicks Off With

### Ash Wednesday

February 14

This Lent, we are focusing on the life and faith of one of Jesus' most famous disciples, Peter. By following Peter's journey, we watch the story of Jesus unfold through the eyes of a very normal human trying to figure it all out—just like us.



### 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

**DEADLINE TO REGISTER  
is February 6!**

Stay Connected



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

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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



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



Rev. Jerry Brabec

inWorship

It has been a long custom at St. Paul Church to celebrate Black History Month with the intentional singing of the Afro-American spirituals that are documented in the United Methodist hymnal and denominational supplements. As a congregation, we can all enjoy the rich musical tradition that we celebrate together!

Pastors Kubai and Wheeler continue their sermon series on "The Lord's Prayer" the first two weekends of February. The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated February 03/04 and the Transfiguration of Jesus on February 10/11. It has been a learning experience in creating liturgy and ministry through music around this standard of Christian prayer practice during this five-week series. It is hoped that you have found new inspiration to pray the familiar words, "Our Father..." Joy Bells will offer a poignant setting of this prayer in worship this second weekend.

Did you know that the date of Easter Day is usually the first Sunday after the first Full Moon occurring on or after the March equinox? In 2024 the spring equinox is March 19, the first full moon on or after is March 25 (the "worm" moon!) making the first Sunday after it March 31, Easter Day! All other observations of religious events are 'backed up' from that date.

This year Ash Wednesday will fall on February 14, sharing the date with St. Valentine's Day! An easy choice, the theme of the "Wandering Heart" will set our Lenten journey with God in motion. A day of atonement (at-one-ment) for Christians and the first of forty days of spiritual fasting, our service will be marked by the imposition or receiving of ashes. This worship, at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary, will include a time of silent reflection, heartfelt confession, and joyful reconciliation. The Choir and Joy Bells will be joined by the Solid Brass Quartet and David Schack, organist. The first weekend of Lent is February 17/18 and worship will be led by the St. Paul House Band as led by John Hough and Hank Robinson. The closing weekend of February 24/25 will focus on the Lenten spirituals we know and some we don't! Regardless of what Punxsutawney Phil sees, we'd like to see you in church!

*Pastoral Perspective* (Cont'd)

The series fosters a spirit of wonder and curiosity as it explores the mysteries of faith, the beauty of God's creation, and the depth of God's love revealed in Jesus Christ. Through scripture, storytelling, and contemplative practices, we are invited to wonder at the majesty of God and the wonders of redemption. We will be participating in these and many more activities. Please be sure to join us as we walk together on the Journey to the cross.

You are always in my prayers and thoughts. Stay warm, stay safe, and may God's blessings be upon you always.

*-Faith Kubai*  
Lead Pastor



Watch for your opportunity to step into the next generation of staying "in the know" at Church. *Realm Connect* is a user friendly app for smart phones that will make staying in touch with your church family a breeze. You'll also have instant access to your private giving record. Training will be offered via YouTube video or in-person. Finally, a way to keep up-to-date that will be easy & fast!



United  
Women  
in Faith

There will be no meeting in February.  
We will resume in March.

## WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

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

"Tom Lake"  
By Ann Patchett

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10 | 9 AM  
Meet on the 2nd floor "Hub" through the main entrance. Call Connie for info 402-660-8211.

\*The January book, "Hello Beautiful" will also be discussed this month, due to weather in January\*



SAINT PAUL  
Men

*All Men Welcome!*

FEBRUARY 10 | FEBRUARY 24

9 AM | ROOM 111

2<sup>ND</sup> & 4<sup>TH</sup> SATURDAY EACH MONTH



ALL ARE WELCOME!  
JOIN US EACH WEDNESDAY  
4 PM | ROOM 111

\*Goodwill Offering Appreciated\*

*Giving Statements*

Giving statements have been emailed and paper copies will be going out this week as well.

If you believe you should have gotten a statement, but did not, please sent Kathy Minikus a message and let her know at kminikus@msn.com

## Our February Calendar

**An Idea to Warm Your Heart:** The Guatemala Stove Project is a ministry of the United Methodist Great Plains Conference. For \$120 you can provide a working stove to countless households that have none. Many families cook on open flames, which are dangerous both in toxicity and human safety. Guatemalan workers are also given a living wage for their craft, creating financial stability in an area where it is so desperately needed. Our **February** communal offering will be in support of this project.  
\*\*\*\*\*

### OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Thursday 9:00 – 3:00; 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 |
|----------------|------------------|-----------|

From the Desk of . . .  
*Rev. Marta Wheeler*

Dear Friends, the past month has been interesting! Including the zoomed worship service, the all-church sledding and ice-skating party, and the leadership event with lunch served by the newly formed Saint Paul Men's Group. A new confirmation class begins in February, and it promises to be an interesting and fun group!

### Dyno Kids

During our Children's Sunday School class, we are also learning about the Lord's Prayer and how Jesus gave it to disciples of all times to guides lives. We are thankful for volunteers who help teach and bring joy to the class by sharing their gifts.

### Five Wishes

Saint Paul's Health Ministries Team is reaching out to gauge interest in another Five Wishes Class. During the class a presentation is given to guide in making end of life decisions. Matters of comfort and maintaining dignity are discussed. Many have found comfort regarding personal, family, and spiritual concerns. If you're interested in contributing to the plans for your own Celebration of Life Worship service, we can help you begin that process as well.

If you're interested, please let Lou Ann Neneman or Pastor Marta Wheeler know.

We pray for you and welcome your prayers for the young people of the church and neighborhood.

## PRAYERS for God's People

### Christian Sympathy

To the family and friends of Joanne Lubberstadt.

### Recent Hospitalizations

Don Wilcox  
Deb Stecker  
Gladys Lantz

### Memorial Gifts

For Vance Taylor: Kent & Sue Bacon, Dick & Carol Behrens, Buono, Carl & Sharon Clark, Jack & Claudi Griger, John & Betty Pestal, James & Priscilla Randall, Tip & Orene Taylor, Greg & Charlene Wilcox

### Memorial Gifts

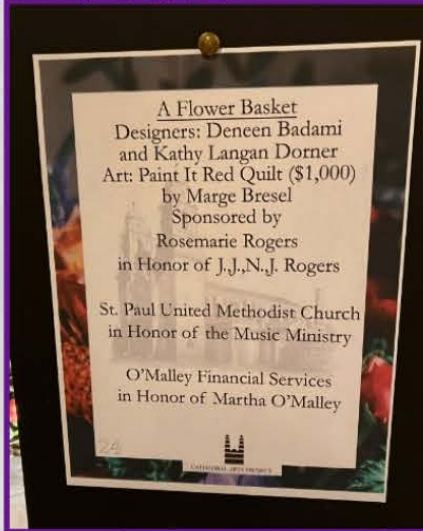
For Mary Rich: Dick & Carol Behrens, Judy Buono, Jack & Claudia Griger, Jean Schmid

For Ed Klima: Daniel & Nancy Klima, Rodney Leona Brakke, Patrick Brennan, Marilou Dohe, Hood, Judy Jacobsen, Mary Ann Kirchner Alan & Kathi Rowch, Pearl Spicka

For Mary Buono: Judy Buono

For Sue Sherman: Dale Harland, Dee Maycock

# Cathedral Flower Festival



**SLEDDING & ICE  
SKATING**

AT

*Mahoney State Park*

1.28.2024

St. Paul Display



# Dinner Club



"All Things Bright & Beautiful"



A new quilt will be featured each month in the sanctuary for purchase, made by our very own

United Women in Faith!

FEBRUARY | \$140

# February 2024

| Sunday  | Monday  | Tuesday  | Wednesday  | Thursday   | Friday  | Saturday  |
|---|---|--|--|--|---|---|
| 28  | 29  | 30   | 31   | 1  | 2   | 3   |
|   |   |  |  | 4:00pm OGR (WH 254-62, 109)<br>5:45pm Bell Choir Rehearsal (BAL) (JB)<br>6:00pm Youth Winter Jam @ Mid-America Center<br>7:00pm Choir Rehearsal (250) (JB) |   | 4:30pm UWF Mini Mart (CGA)<br>5:00pm Worship Service<br> |
| <b>4 LORD'S PRAYER SERIES</b><br>8:30am UWF Mini Mart (SGA)<br>8:45am Soul Journeys for Women (LIB)<br>9:30am The Choir Rehearsal (250)<br>10:00am Worship Service In-Person and Livestream (SAN)<br>11:00am Nepali Worship (FH) (FK)<br>11:15am Sunday School (MW)<br>3:00pm Prayer Service (CHP) (FK)   | <b>5</b><br>8:30am Lectio Divina (Offsite) (MW)<br>9:00am Quilters (Offsite)<br>4:00pm OGR (WH 254-62, 109)                                 | <b>6 Women's Retreat Registration Due</b><br>1:30pm Prayer Shawl Ministry (LIB)<br>4:00pm OGR (WH 254-62, 109) | <b>7</b><br>4:00pm OGR (WH 254-62, 109)<br>4:00pm Tai Chi (111) (LS)   | <b>8</b><br>4:00pm OGR (WH 254-62, 109)<br>7:30pm Bell Choir Rehearsal (BAL) (JB)  | <b>9</b><br>4:00pm OGR (WH 254-62, 109)                                 | <b>10</b><br>9:00am Book Club (Offsite)<br>9:00am UM Men (111)<br>4:30pm Joy Bell Rehearsal (RC)<br>5:00pm Worship Service                  |
| <b>11 LORD'S PRAYER SERIES</b><br><br>8:30am Shrove Pancake Feed (FH)<br>8:45am Soul Journeys for Women (LIB)<br>9:00am Joy Bell Rehearsal (BAL)<br>9:30am The Choir Rehearsal (250)<br>10:00am Worship Service In-Person and Livestream (SAN)<br>11:00am Nepali Worship (RC) (FK)<br>11:15am Sunday School (MW)<br>3:00pm Prayer Service (CHP) (FK)<br>4:00pm Confirmation Class (LIB) | <b>12</b><br>8:30am Lectio Divina (Offsite) (MW)<br>9:00am Quilters (Offsite)<br>10:30am Morning Musings (L)<br>4:00pm OGR (WH 254-62, 109) | <b>13</b><br>1:30pm Prayer Shawl Ministry (LIB)<br>4:00pm OGR (WH 254-62, 109)                                 | <b>14 ASH WEDNESDAY</b><br><br>4:00pm OGR (WH 254-62, 109)<br>4:00pm Tai Chi (111) (LS)<br>7:00pm Worship (SANC) | <b>15</b><br>4:00pm OGR (WH 254-62, 109)<br>5:45pm Bell Choir Rehearsal (BAL) (JB)<br>7:00pm Choir Rehearsal (250) (JB)                                    | <b>16</b><br>4:00pm OGR (WH 254-62, 109)                                | <b>17</b><br>5:00pm Worship Service   |
| <b>18 WANDERING HEART SERIES</b><br>8:45am Soul Journeys for Women (LIB)<br>9:15am Band Set Up/Rehearsal (SAN) (JB)<br>9:30am The Choir Rehearsal (250)<br>10:00am Worship Service In-Person and Livestream (SAN)<br>11:00am Nepali Worship (FH) (FK)<br>11:15am Sunday School (MW)<br>3:00pm Prayer Service (CHP) (FK)<br>4:00pm Confirmation Class (LIB)  | <b>19</b><br>8:30am Lectio Divina (Offsite) (MW)<br>9:00am Quilters (Offsite)<br>10:30am Morning Musings (LIB)                              | <b>20</b><br>1:30pm Prayer Shawl Ministry (LIB)<br>4:00pm OGR (WH 254-62, 109)                                 | <b>21</b><br>4:00pm OGR (WH 254-62, 109)<br>4:00pm Tai Chi (111) (LS)  | <b>22</b><br>4:00pm OGR (WH 254-62, 109)<br>5:45pm Bell Choir Rehearsal (BAL) (JB)<br>7:00pm Choir Rehearsal (250) (JB)                                    | <b>23</b><br>4:00pm OGR (WH 254-62, 109)<br>6:00pm OSSO Rehearsal (111) | <b>24</b><br>Piano Competition (JB)<br>9:00am UM Men (111)<br>5:00pm Worship Service<br>6:15pm Dinner Club - location TBD                   |
| <b>25 WANDERING HEART SERIES</b><br>8:45am Soul Journeys for Women (LIB)<br>9:30am The Choir Rehearsal (250)<br>10:00am Worship Service In-Person and Livestream (SAN)<br>11:00am Nepali Worship (FH) (FK)<br>11:15am Sunday School (MW)<br>3:00pm Prayer Service (CHP) (FK)<br>4:00pm Confirmation Class (LIB)   | <b>26</b><br>8:30am Lectio Divina (Offsite) (MW)<br>9:00am Quilters (Offsite)<br>4:00pm OGR (WH 254-62, 109)<br>Women's Retreat             | <b>27</b><br>1:30pm Prayer Shawl Ministry (LIB)<br>4:00pm OGR (WH 254-62, 109)                                 | <b>28</b><br>4:00pm OGR (WH 254-62, 109)<br>4:00pm Tai Chi (111) (LS)  | <b>29</b><br>4:00pm OGR (WH 254-62, 109)<br>5:45pm Bell Choir Rehearsal (BAL) (JB)<br>7:00pm Choir Rehearsal (250) (JB)                                    | <b>1</b><br>4:00pm OGR (WH 254-62, 109)                                 | <b>2</b><br>5:00pm Worship Service  |
|   |   |  |  |  |   |   |
| 2 PM February 25  |   | 1 PM February 26   |  |  |   |   |