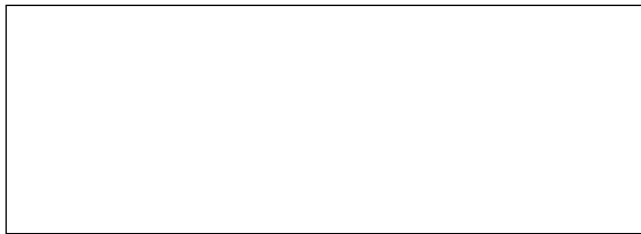




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PRAYERS for God's People

Christian Sympathy

To the family and friends of Ramona Gaskill.
To the family and friends of Dolores Wolsleben.
To the family and friends of Rev. Kathy Rice.
To the family and friends of Norma Parker

Recent Hospitalizations

Don Wilcox
Dan Rasmussen

Memorial Gifts

For **Joanne Lubberstedt**: Nick Andersen, Debra Carlson, Connie Crawford, Annette Farquhar, Loyd Fleming, Richard Jungman, Frank Kessler, Douglas Larsen, Nancy Noren, Michael Paces, Patricia Rahn, Timothy Robinson, Darwin Rubeck, Steven Turner, Kenneth & Janice Walker, Dick & Pat Whiteman, Don Wilcox.

St. Paul United Methodist Church
OMAHA | BENSON

EASTER EGG HUNT

Snacks | Crafts | Story Time

MAY 23 | 10 - 11 AM

5410 CORBY STREET | OMAHA

Inspiration

NEWS FROM ST. PAUL UNITED METHODIST

MARCH 2024

Pastoral Perspective with Rev. Faith Kubai

Grace and peace to you all during this Lenten season. I am filled with gratitude for the opportunity to journey together as a St. Paul Church family. Lent is a time of introspection, repentance, and spiritual renewal—a sacred season that calls us to draw closer to God and to one another. You are invited to reflect on our spiritual journey and to discern the ways in which God is calling us to grow and deepen our faith through prayer, fasting, meditation on Scripture, and acts of service.

And as we journey through the darkness of Lent, we do so with the knowledge that Easter morning is on the horizon—the day when we celebrate the triumph of life over death, hope over despair. The resurrection of Jesus Christ that will remind us that God's love is stronger than sin, stronger than death, and that through Christ, we are offered the gift of new life and eternal hope.

Let us remember the importance of community and support as we navigate the Lenten journey together. As brothers and sisters in Christ, we are called to walk alongside one another, offering encouragement, accountability, and grace. I invite you to reach out to someone that you have not seen for a long time during this season and share the love of Christ with them.

(Cont. on page 2)

Join Us for Holy Week Worship



Palm Sunday

We remember the crowd's excitement with waving palms **Saturday, March 23 at 5:00 PM** in Roth Chapel and **Sunday, March 24 at 10:00 AM** in the Sanctuary with the Solid Brass Quartet.



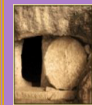
Maundy Thursday

The Joy Bells will offer special music during this service beginning at 7:00 PM in the Sanctuary, **Thursday, March 28**. Celebrating Holy Communion.



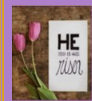
Good Friday

The retelling of Christ's last hours will begin at 7:00 PM in the Sanctuary, **Friday, March 29**. Worship will center on the power of the cross with narrations from the Saint Paul Youth.



Holy Saturday

With the reminder that Christ has not yet risen, the sacrament of Holy Communion offers us the chance to start anew. The service will begin at 5:00 PM in Roth Chapel, **Saturday, March 30**.



Easter Sunday

Hallelujah! Christ has risen! This day we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. Sing hallelujahs and celebrate with great JOY! Worship and Holy Communion will begin at 10 AM in the Sanctuary, **Sunday, March 31**.

Looking for a Place to Serve in our Church?



The Outreach Group invites you to come and share the love of God to other people outside our four walls of church!

The Mission is to actively engage with our community, extending a welcoming embrace that invites individuals into the transformative presence of God. With a commitment to empathy, understanding, and practical support, we seek to meet people where they are, offering acceptance, compassion, and assistance tailored to their unique needs. Contact Orene Taylor to sign up!

Through our intentional outreach efforts, we aspire to foster deep connections, inspire hope, and cultivate a sense of belonging for all whom we encounter.

VOLUNTEER

Stay Connected



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

St. Paul United Methodist
5410 Corby Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68104

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SaintPaul@StPaulOmaha.org

SaintPaulBenson.org

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Lead Pastor

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

Rev. Jerry Brabec
Minister of Worship

Aretha Gearhart
Communications and
Administrative Assistant

Noni Cambridge
Bookkeeper

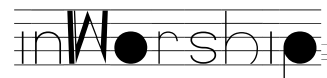
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Tabitha Jameson, MA, LIMHP
402.354.6891 ext. 23

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

Stay Connected
@SaintPaulBenson
   



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

As you receive this issue, we will already be readying ourselves for the third Sunday of Lent 2023. We know this time to be one of forty days of praying, fasting, and giving. Did you know that Lent actually ends at sundown of Holy Saturday, the Saturday of Easter weekend, which makes it forty-six days long? The Church has historically exempted Sunday's worship from Lent: six Sundays from forty-six days leaves us with the reminder of the forty days Jesus spent being tempted in the wilderness.

Sunday, **March 03** will bring the music of guest organist, David Schack to our worship. Sunday, **March 10** will be celebrated with our House Band.

Sunday, **March 17** worship will be enhanced with music from the Joy Bells.

March 24, we remember the excitement of the crowd on Palm Sunday with organist, David Schack and the Solid Brass Quartet at 10:00 with waving palms.

Holy/Maundy Thursday is the Christian reenactment of the Passover feast that Jesus celebrated with the Twelve Disciples on the eve of his arrest. As part of the Sacrament of Holy Communion we will observe a ritual of hand washing, following Christ's mandate to, "do this in remembrance of me." The Joy Bell Ringers and organist, David Schack will offer special music during this service which begins at 7:00 p.m., **March 28**, in the Sanctuary.

For Protestants the observance of Good Friday, **March 29** is a most somber and solemn occasion. This powerful retelling of Christ's last hours will begin at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Our worship will center round the power of the scriptural last words of Christ with members of the Saint Paul Youth offering readings underscored by music of The Choir with the Solid Brass Quartet.

Holy Saturday, **March 30** reminds us that Christ has not yet risen through the hearing of a Messiah foretold by the prophets and writers of Biblical scriptures. The sacrament of Holy Communion offers us the chance to start anew in God's love for us as Christ's resurrection is announced. The service will begin at 5:00 p.m. in Roth Chapel.

The Festival of Easter, **March 31**, is the main reason why Christians keep Sunday, the first day of the week, as the primary day of religious observance. Easter serves as the great feast day and pinnacle of the Christian liturgical year. It is also the first day of the new season of the Great Fifty Days, or Eastertide, which runs from Easter Sunday to Pentecost Sunday. Our celebrations of the empty tomb will include the Sacrament of Holy Communion at 10:00 a.m. Guest organist, David Schack, will offer a thrilling 15-minute prelude before the service. The Choir and Joy Bells will all lead in worship.

Bring your family and friends to celebrate at St. Paul. Holy Week, the culmination of our Lenten journey. The shofar blasts of Ash Wednesday continue to call us to pray, fast, give and return to God as we prepare to celebrate yet another Easter miracle.

From the Desk of . . .
Rev. Marta Wheeler

Saint Paul friends,

It's only a month until the Season of Spring officially arrives on the calendar. Yet this week I've already opened the windows and aired out the house. This is a very good Lenten practice and the air smells so good!

Twenty-one women gathered for the "Dream Catchers and More" retreat in February. We have stories to share of the holy fun times had at Saint Benedict's Monastery.

Watching the Sunday School kids at "Shrove Tuesday on Sunday" enthusiastically piling pancakes, sausage, and Canadian bacon on their plates was delightful! Like the rest of the congregation, we are in the midst of the *Wandering Heart* series. It is good to play games and make crafts related to that week's scriptures. Families are experiencing the scriptures according to their level of maturity in wonderful ways.

Please see the *Dyno Kids Easter Party* announcement. All children from preschool through 6th grades are invited for the celebration on Saturday, March 23rd, from 10-11 am. We hope to have a good turnout and will include the young ones who worship at Saint Paul in the afternoon, those from Nepal and Africa.

The weekly prayer group brings each person listed on the yellow prayer cards (and others you have brought to our attention) into our Christ's healing Light and Love. We are so thankful for those who call to check on those who can't make it to church. Surely you could spare 15-30 minutes a week to remind people they are still remembered by Saint Paul. It's rewarding for people on both ends of the phone line. Let me know and we will connect you with an old friend!

God's blessings to each of you!



United
Women
in Faith

All Women Welcome!

**WEDNESDAY,
MARCH 6**

**9:30 AM ROOM 111
COFFEE & PROGRAM**

WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB



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

**"Happiness Falls"
By Angie Kim**

SATURDAY, MARCH 9 | 9 AM

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



**SAINT PAUL
Men**

All Men Welcome!

MARCH 9 | MARCH 23

9 AM | ROOM 111

2ND & 4TH SATURDAY EACH MONTH



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

 *Let's Get Social!*

Follow, Like, Subscribe and Friend us! We're easy to find by searching for "SaintPaulBenson" on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, or YouTube.

Pastoral Perspective
(Cont'd)

I am also thrilled to share the exciting news of our progress on enhancing our audiovisual system for worship and beyond! We've made significant strides in improving our technological capabilities to enhance our worship experiences and outreach efforts. The new audiovisual system will not only elevate the quality of our worship services but also enable us to better connect with our congregation and community, both in person and online. Our collective desire is to create welcoming and inclusive spaces where all can encounter God's presence.

I humbly ask you to consider giving a special offering during this season toward church repairs and maintenance. We are still dealing with a main repair on our boiler system. As we reflect on the sacrificial love of Christ during this season, let us prayerfully consider how we can contribute to the ongoing work of God's kingdom here on earth.

Finally, my prayers are always for you and your loved ones and remember you are always in my heart.

-Faith Kubai
Lead Pastor



**WHY DO WE CELEBRATE
SPECIAL SUNDAYS?**

United Methodists celebrate on specific days to unite and make clear the commitment of the church as the people of God, and to give everyone the opportunity to contribute to special programs approved and supported by the Church. For stories on how you make a difference visit UMC.org/yourimpact

**HOW DO YOUR GIFTS
SUPPORT UMCOR?**

As followers of Jesus Christ, we are called to respond with extravagant grace. Through the **United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR)**, we are able to make a difference in the lives of communities and individuals whose lives have been upset by storms, wars, fires, displacement and climate change. This offering underwrites UMCOR's "costs of doing business," allowing UMCOR to keep the promise that **100% of any gift to a specific UMCOR project will go toward that project, not administrative costs.**



Undie Sunday!

The Mercy & Justice Team's annual "Undie Sunday" drive will soon begin!

Bring all sizes of children's new unders, t-shirts, bras & socks to Mission Central by March 17.

Monday Musings

March 11 | 10:30 AM
Rev. Jerry Brabec | Library

"Fierce"

By Jennifer Cowart

MARCH 9TH



 **realm**
Let's get connected.

Email invitations will be going out this week to the Leadership team to set up your account in the Realm - Connect App. Once you download the app, and set up your account, your invite will be approved, and you can start to set up your profile and update your group members! Invites to all other members will be forthcoming.

Audiovisual Upgrading
has begun!



PANCAKE FEED
PROCEEDS TOP \$650 for
UMCOR!



SAVE THE DATE

Confirmation Classes

July 8-11 | 10:30 am - 2:30 pm



Thank
you!



"Cathedral Windows"



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

United Women in Faith!

MARCH | \$200

New Windows!



March 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 5:00pm Worship Service
3 8:45am Soul Journeys for Women (LIB) 9:30am The Choir Rehearsal (250) 10:00am Worship Service In-Person and Livestream (SAN) 11:00am Nepali Worship (FH/111) 11:15am Sunday School 1:30pm African Worship (WH)	4 8:30am Lectio Divina (Offsite) 9:00am Quilters (Offsite)	5 1:30pm Prayer Shawl Ministry (LIB)	6 9:30am United Women in Faith (111) 4:00pm Tai Chi (111)	7	8	9 9:00am Book Club (Offsite) 9:00am UM Men (109) 5:00pm Worship Service
10 Spring Ahead! 8:45am Soul Journeys for Women (LIB) 9:30am The Choir Rehearsal (250) 10:00am Worship Service In-Person and Livestream (SAN) 11:00am Nepali Worship (FH/111) 11:15am Sunday School 11:30am Memorial Luncheon (FH) 12:30pm Memorial Service (SAN) 1:30pm African Worship (WH) 3:00pm Prayer Service (CHP)	11 8:30am Lectio Divina (Offsite) 9:00am Quilters (Offsite) 10:30am Morning Musings (LIB)	12 1:30pm Prayer Shawl Ministry (LIB)	13 4:00pm Tai Chi (111)	14 5:45pm Bell Choir Rehearsal (BAL) 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal (250)	15	16 3:00pm OGR Tots Rock (WH 158) 5:00pm Worship Service
17 8:45am Soul Journeys for Women (LIB) 9:30am The Choir Rehearsal (250) 10:00am Worship Service In-Person and Livestream (SAN) 11:00am Nepali Worship (FH/111) 11:15am Sunday School 1:30pm African Worship (WH) 3:00pm Prayer Service (CHP)	18 8:30am Lectio Divina (Offsite) (MW) 9:00am Quilters (Offsite) 10:30am Morning Musings (LIB) 7:00pm Church Council (CP)	19 1:30pm Prayer Shawl Ministry (LIB)	20 4:00pm Tai Chi (111)	21 5:45pm Bell Choir Rehearsal (BAL) 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal (250)	22	23 9:00am UM Men (109) 3:00pm OGR Tots Rock (WH 158) 5:00pm Worship Service
24 <i>Palm Sunday</i> 8:45am Soul Journeys for Women (LIB) 9:30am The Choir Rehearsal (250) 10:00am Worship Service In-Person and Livestream (SAN) 11:00am Nepali Worship (FH/111) 11:15am Sunday School 1:30pm African Worship (WH) 3:00pm Prayer Service (CHP)	25 8:30am Lectio Divina (Offsite) 9:00am Quilters (Offsite) 10:30am Morning Musings (LIB)	26 1:30pm Prayer Shawl Ministry (LIB) 5:45pm Joy Bell Rehearsal (BAL) 7:00pm The Choir Rehearsal (250)	27 4:00pm Tai Chi (111)	28 <i>Maundy Thursday</i> 5:45pm Bell Choir Rehearsal (BAL) 7:00pm Worship (SAN)	29 <i>Good Friday</i> 6:15pm Choir Rehearsal (250) 7:00pm Worship (SAN)	30 <i>Holy Saturday</i> 3:00pm OGR Tots Rock (WH 158) 5:00pm Worship (CHP)
31 <i>Easter</i> 8:45am Soul Journeys for Women (LIB) 9:30am The Choir Rehearsal (250) 10:00am Worship Service In-Person and Livestream (SAN) 11:00am Nepali Worship (FH/111) 11:15am Sunday School 1:30pm African Worship (WH) 3:00pm Prayer Service (CHP)	1 8:30am Lectio Divina (Offsite) 9:00am Quilters (Offsite)	2 1:30pm Prayer Shawl Ministry (LIB)	3 9:30am United Women in Faith (111) 4:00pm Tai Chi (111)	4 4:00pm OGR (WH 254-62, 109) 5:45pm Bell Choir Rehearsal (BAL) (JB)	5	6 3:00pm OGR Tots Rock (WH 158) 5:00pm Worship Service