

# Inspiration



NEWS FROM ST. PAUL UNITED METHODIST

MARCH 2026

## *Pastoral Perspective*

Church family,

We are stepping into March, and I sense a quiet strength in this season. March is not loud, yet it is deeply significant. It sits between winter and spring, between reflection and renewal, between what has been and what God is preparing to unfold. There is something about this month that feels like holy ground, a time to steady our hearts, refocus our vision, and move forward with intention.

I am still holding in my heart the joy of our All-Church Potluck and Planning Time. It was beautiful. It was well attended. It was meaningful. Seeing the fellowship hall full, hearing laughter across tables, and watching generations sit together and speak about the future of this church reminded me that we are alive and well. We did not just share food; we shared vision. We spoke honestly about our hopes, our growth, and the kind of church we believe God is shaping us to become.

As we journey through Lent, we are wrestling with a sacred question:

### *Why did Jesus have to die?*

On the First Sunday in Lent, we reflected on "The Mystery and Meaning of the Cross." We were reminded that the cross stands at the center of our faith and at the edge of human understanding. What appears weak to the world becomes the power of God.

On the Second Sunday, during Communion, we reflected on "The Crucifixion as God's Word." From the Garden in Genesis to the Word made flesh in John's Gospel, we traced the story of redemption. Christ restores what was broken. The cross speaks life where there was death.

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## *Anticipating Spring*

By. Rev. Marta Wheeler

**Nature's tweed suit is getting old.  
a fluffy white coat would brighten her up!  
Even better, a good soaking  
shower would adorn her  
in shades of green and lilac.  
So far, cloud coaxing has not worked  
even though many in the east would  
certainly prefer a gale  
rushing clouds our way to  
release their moisture on our thirsty ground.  
No matter the drab appearance  
of trees and grasses today we can choose  
to commit to the Lenten cleansing  
of the inner self  
until feeling bright with Christ's Love.  
So awaiting spring showers  
bringing delicate blossoms in all colors  
we pray devotions each day  
Quietly loosening the stories  
contaminating our hearts  
preparing us to serve with vigor.  
Dear friends, can we agree that  
clearing, healing, and releasing through  
mysteries initiated  
by Spirit will prepare  
us for the renewal to come  
on Resurrection Day as we sing  
and pray and Christ's Spirit  
streams into the loosened  
soil of compassionate, loving hearts?**

## This is a Lent of depth— a Lent of growth.

*Pastoral Perspective...Continued*

Easter is already drawing near, and with it, we will celebrate the confirmation of four of our youth, a beautiful sign that faith is taking root in the next generation. We will also celebrate one baptism, a powerful reminder that new life in Christ is alive among us.

As we step into March, I pray that God will bless the St. Paul Church family with spiritual depth and holy boldness. I pray that our outreach will bear fruit. I pray that our youth will grow strong in faith. I pray that our homes will be filled with peace. I pray that we will not grow weary in doing good, because the harvest is ahead of us.

Please know that as your pastor, I carry you in my heart. I think about you. I pray for you. I ask God to strengthen you in the quiet battles no one sees and to bless you in ways you may not even expect. Your names, your families, your journeys matter deeply to me.

Let us keep praying.  
Let us keep believing.  
Let us keep reaching.

With gratitude

*Rev. Faith Kubai*

 SAINT PAUL  
*Men*



Join The Saint Paul

*Men's Group*

**Building Mechanics  
Part 2**

SAT. MAR 14 | 9:30AM

*All men are welcome!*

### *Saint Paul Benson Building Maintenance Crew*



The **SPBBMC**, better known as the Saint Paul Benson Building Maintenance Crew held its first training meeting in February led by Larry Baasch with assisted leadership from Scott Camp and Mike and Peggy Haskins. The group met at church for their first meeting, with Jim Boston, Lonnie Brown, Jim Bruhn, Marc May, Charissa and Matt Rojas and Gerald Relford, in fascinated and wide-eyed attendance. Kevin Kupzyk has also played an important part in this endeavor.

Born out of the Trustees Committee work, these church members have volunteered to learn and possibly help with many of the hundreds of ins and outs of maintaining St Paul Benson operations, as they refer to church cleaning, locations of closets, door keys, tools, addressing project improvements, room and closet door identification with upcoming signage, and the proper functioning of many of the church apparatuses to keep SPB humming along.

Meeting/training session II will occur Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM. Any members who wish to come along for the ride are welcome to attend!

*Pray*



*Fast*



*Give*



To mark the 40 days of Lent, we invite you to pray, fast, and give. Using the envelopes provided in the Sanctuary and Chapel, act intentionally each day, contributing the cost of a meal as a sacrifice. Then return your completed envelope to worship Easter Weekend; all funds will be forwarded to UMCOR for disaster relief. Together, our sacrifices can make a meaningful difference in the lives of others. If you would like an envelope mailed out to you, please contact Aretha in the office at [Aretha@Stpaulomaha.org](mailto:Aretha@Stpaulomaha.org) or 402-556-2433.



*Scholarship Opportunity!*

Any Saint Paul Benson members who graduated from high school in the years 2022-2025 and intend to continue their education is eligible for the Saint Paul United Methodist Scholarship!

For more information, please see Rev. Faith Kubai

**SAVE THE DATE**

*Creating Your Soul Psalm  
Women's Retreat*

**April 18 | 10am-2pm**

*More information to come!*

# PRAYERS *for God's People*

## *Christian Sympathy*

To the family and friends of Don Wilcox.

## *Memorial Gifts*

For Pamela Regan: Heather & Nikki Cohrs

For Joanna Lonnecker: Barbara Bidroski, Brett Schwertley, Carol Brush, Judy Buono, Thomas CynthiaBerve, Mary Stolzer, Steven Tompset, Debra Tompsett-Welch

## *A Personal Note* from Pastor Faith

I want to thank you for walking with my family through our immigration journey.

**We have now received our Green Cards, and my heart is full of gratitude!**

It feels like holding a testimony of God's faithfulness.

Your prayers and support have meant more than I can say. You have truly been a church family to us.

*thankyou*



**SAVE THE DATE**  
United Women of Faith  
*Spring Luncheon*  
SAT. MAY 16 | 11 AM  
\$15 *Step Into Style*  
FASHION SHOW  
with Tip Top Thrift Shop  
BACK THIS YEAR!



**Holy Humor Sunday!**  
SUNDAY  
APRIL 12 | 10 AM  
Celebrate Joy & Laughter  
in the Light of the Resurrection!

## *All-Church Yard Clean-Up Day*

THURSDAY, APRIL 16 | 9AM

Bring your favorite hoe, rake, gloves, buckets, etc.!



*Church Council*  
**MEETING**  
MARCH 16 | 7 PM | Parlor



**SCOUT SUNDAY**  
Erri & Paul McMahon with Pastors Faith & Marta



United Women in Faith

## Quarterly Meeting

MARCH 7 | 930 AM | RM. 111

*All are welcome!*



## GUEST SPEAKER

*Julie Masters*



*St. Paul*

**United Methodist Church**  
OMAHA | BENSON

5410 CORBY STREET  
OMAHA, NE 68104

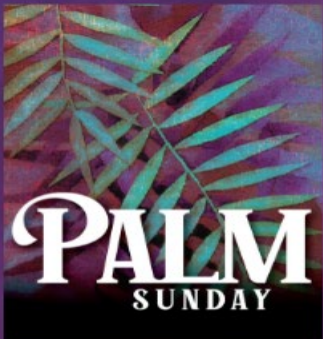
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



# *Join Us for Holy Week Worship*

March 29 - April 5



MARCH 29  
10 AM



APRIL 02  
7 PM



APRIL 03  
7PM



APRIL 05  
10 AM

*Invite your Friends and Family to Join Us this Easter!*