

Here we are in April and summer is just around the corner. I don't know about you, but my mind has already begun to look forward to the warmer weather and make some plans about how I would like to enjoy the months ahead.

As you begin to think about summer, I have a few things for you to consider.

First, keep church in your summer plans. God is with us all year long, but unfortunately, summer can be a time when Church attendance can drop off. Remember that we now have two worship times, so if you need to get going a little earlier on a Sunday, then come at 8:30 AM. Or if you want to catch a little more sleep, then come to the 11:00 AM service. Treasure your time with God as you continue to grow in love with Him and your neighbor. And keep this going even during the wonderful summer days.

Also, 94% of our budget involves fixed monthly costs. This includes things like utilities, insurance, and salaries. In the summer our program costs drop, but we are unable to be flexible with the vast majority of our budgeted expenses. So please don't forget your tithe. This will help us remain up-to-date on things like monthly apportionments and bills. For me, when I am going to go on vacation, I try to pay my tithe in advance, or I set up my checking account to automatically send my tithe to the church. Many of us have an automatic "bill pay" option with our banks that can be very handy when we take long trips and won't be at St. Paul for an extended period of time.

And when you travel, add some adventure to your vacation by enjoying different worship services at different Churches along the way. When I go on vacation, I find a local United Methodist Church or worship at a different denomination. I really enjoy and learn a lot from these different services and they help open up my soul to new ideas from the Holy Spirit.

And of course, remember to pray. Take some time with this beautiful weather to enjoy nature and find some time to spend with God. When I go fishing or take the dogs out for a run in nature, I really cherish just relaxing and having a good long talk with God.

So over the summer keep praying, keep worshipping, keep tithing, and keep being transformed into the person that God wants you to become. Because when you are on this journey of transformation, all of life's stresses go away, as you feel God's love, acceptance, forgiveness, and transformation pour all over your life and soul.

God bless,  
Pastor Mike

## **PROMISE KEEPERS TO HOLD RALLY IN CEDAR FALLS**



- **WHEN:** July 13-14
- **WHERE:** UNI-Dome—Cedar Falls
- **TICKETS:** \$59; group rate discounts and scholarships available.
- **INFO:** [promisekeepers.org](http://promisekeepers.org)

Having gone to several Events in the past, I remember the first time I saw thousands of men standing shoulder-to-shoulder for a common purpose. The most unique experience was hearing all those men singing praises to God. It was also good to hear the different speakers talk about things that effect men and their families.

Promise Keepers is a nondenominational, Christian ministry that aims to motivate men to "influence their world through a relationship with Jesus Christ. This conference is one of five scheduled for 2012 and it will be the first time for a major gathering to be held in Cedar Falls.

The 2012 conference theme is Called Out, a reference to Deuteronomy 6, High-lighting the virtues, "courage, leadership, action and nobility." Men's ministries such as Promise Keepers continue to be relevant in a culture where there are problems — the church is not immune — like absentee fathers, abuse and passivity, and where the roles and responsibilities of males are somewhat diminished through Hollywood and the media. "Men need to step up and serve and lead their families."

Speakers and performers listed for the Cedar Falls conference are Reggie Dabbs, Gary Rosberg, Sam Rodriguez, Raleigh Washington, Derwin Gray, Dobie Weasel and Bob Beltz. Comedian Brad Stine and the musicians Mathew West and the Promise Keepers worship team are also expected to perform.

Men this can be a very rewarding time for you and your son. The information on cost and time are in the logo above. You can find more information on line at:

<http://www.promisekeepers.org/events/cedar-falls-ia-registration>

Please plan to join us and we will purchase tickets in the near future. If we get enough to go, we should be able to get a \$49 rate. Please let the office know if you are interested or talk to Pastor or Dick Christian.

### **Ready for a short local mission trip that can really make a difference?**

Once again will be sending a team to the NE Iowa Food Bank in Waterloo. We will be going on Saturday, April 28 and we will leave the Church at 8:30 AM and return by noon. This is a GREAT opportunity to be a behind-the-scenes-saint by helping to fill food bags for the needy right here in our community. Please notify the office (342-2208) or Marcia Bechthold (231-6386) if you will be going. That way we will know when everyone is here and when we can leave on Saturday morning.

## Caregiver Training

*"There are only four kinds of people in the world – those who have been caregivers, those who are currently caregivers, those who will be caregivers and those who will need caregivers."* – Rosalynn Carter. Thanks to a grant from the General Board of Discipleship, the Conference Older Adult Council is sponsoring a day long workshop focusing on the various aspects of caregiving. The content of this workshop will be appropriate for actual caregivers and those in the church who care for them. An impressive slate of speakers will make the day well worth your time. Please join us on Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup> at First UMC in Des Moines to learn more about this timely topic. Brochures are available on the Older Adult Ministries Webpage on the Conference website ([www.iaumc.org](http://www.iaumc.org)) then click on "Ministries" and then on "Older Adult Council". Additional information and the registration process can be found on the event brochure.

## BUDGET INFORMATION FOR MARCH

### RECEIVED FOR GENERAL BUDGET

March 4, 2012 - \$3,861.19

March 18, 2012 - \$2,211.00

Total Outreach - \$527.29

March 11, 2012 - \$3332.30

March 25, 2012 - \$2,559.75



Thank you for your generosity in giving to so many church programs this year. We also had a very successful Spaghetti Supper that many of you contributed to in a variety of ways. We are trying to stay current with all of our responsibilities. As we approach our summer months, would you please keep in mind that our bills continue even when we are on vacation. Can you possibly give extra to the general budget before summer?  
Thank you, Finance Committee

## Mission Trip to Spirit Lake Reservation in North Dakota

Please join us on a mission trip to the Spirit Lake Ministry Center on the Spirit Lake Indian Reservation in North Dakota from Sunday, August 5 - Friday, August 10. The Spirit Lake Ministry Center is dedicated to supporting the peoples of the Spirit Lake Nation and is an approved United Methodist Volunteer in Mission destination. During this trip we will help unload trucks for the annual "Give Away." In addition, we will paint, build wheelchair ramps, work on roofs, and help with their annual carnival. The trip will include a cultural event. The cost is \$300 plus transportation. The \$300 is all-inclusive and pays for all lodging, meals, and project materials while at the Center. If we have enough people, we may be able to rent a large van, and who knows, if we really have a lot of folks, we might even need to rent a bus. The transportation costs and meals along the drive to the center will be extra. Sign-up today on the sheet in the back of the sanctuary or by calling the Church office. For more information on the Spirit Lake Center, here is their web site: [spiritlakeministrycenter.org](http://spiritlakeministrycenter.org). Sign-up deadline is May 1 so please sign-up on the form in the sanctuary or with the church office. Make your \$300 check payable to St. Paul UMC with a note that it is for your reservation for the Spirit Lake Mission Trip.

## Attention: The Malawi Project



I have put some shorts or dress kits in the church office. Take one or more to sew. If you need thread or any other supplies, let me know. I will need Tank or T-shirts to go with the shorts and skirts. They should be new or very Gently used for boys and girls between the ages 5 and 12. There is another sewing day scheduled for Monday, April 9th, between 9 am and 3 pm. Come anytime.

I appreciate all the help you have given me. Norma-342-2954

# St. Paul United Methodist Church Council Meeting Notes

## March 13th Meeting



**The mission of St. Paul UMC is to make Disciples of Christ  
for the transformation of the world!**

You can find out Church Council news by looking on the bulletin board located in the hallway opposite the Church Office. The monthly meeting notes are posted on that bulletin board.

The Church Council is not just a random picked group of people. The Church Council consist of the Chair people of each Committee. The Committees we have are as follows: Finance (Judy Mether), Education, (Mary Fratzke), Youth Group, CIA (Kari Wright, and Co-chair to be announced), Trustee (Bill Starr), United Methodist Women, UMW ( Pat Benda & Charlene Heiar), Outreach & Evangelism (Terri Klocker) Worship Committee (Becky Wellman), Staff Parish Relations Committee ( Sherry Sheffler), Memorial Committee ( Charlene Heiar), Endowment (Phyllis Weidemann), Nursery & Child Care (Tammy Hook and Co-Chair to be announced), Lay Leader (Danny Higgins), Membership ( Deenie Higgins) and our Church Secretary, Carolyn Harwood, and Pastor Mike attend the Church Council Meetings

Each Church Council meeting has an agenda that is followed. If you have a topic that you would like discussed at the Church Council Meeting, please call either the Church, myself, or Pastor Mike, the first week of each month, and we will add it to our agenda. **Everyone** is welcome to attend the Church Council Meetings , which are held the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m..

The Good Friday Service will be held at 7:00 p.m..

The Trustee Committee will be serving breakfast on Easter from 7:30a.m. – 11:30 a.m.. On the menu will be Belgium Waffles, and Sausage.

We will have both services on Easter Sunday.

For those of you on a Church Committee, we have rescheduled The Leadership Conference to May 2, 2012, from 6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m..

Pastor Mike will be having Sermons on some sensitive matters in the upcoming months. These Sermons will deal with topics, such as Homosexuality, Abortion, and other things we have to deal with everyday. If you have concerns, please express these to Pastor Mike.

We have two possibilities for you to go on a Mission Trip. A group will be going to Malawi, Africa, and a group will be going to Spirit Lake, North Dakota.

Please let me remind you that, the Church Council is here to represent **you**.

Judy Hora, Church Council Chair

## Easter Sunday Breakfast

I hope you are planning to be hungry on Easter morning. This is because we will be having an Easter breakfast that through 11:30 AM on Sunday, gigan Waffles, sausage, and all will offering and the proceeds. Also, look for the sign-ways you can help. So bring an awesome breakfast, and an celebrate our Risen Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!



will start at 7:30 AM and run April 8. The menu will include Bel-the fixings. All we ask is for a free-will go toward our apportion-sheets on Sunday mornings for your family and friends and enjoy even greater worship service as we

## United Methodist Women News

Believe it or not by the time you receive this newsletter we will be in the month of April. So far so good with the wonderful weather we are having. I'm sure some of you have been outside working in your flowers and probably have some plants that are blooming. Isn't this a wonderful time of year? Soon we will be complaining about how warm it is and having to mow the lawn. Spring is wonderful!

Thank you to Meekness Circle and anyone else that helped with our Soup Supper. The food and fellowship was great. Their proceeds of \$424.00 will go towards the Hope Tailoring School in Malawi and other Mission projects UMW support. Thanks girls!

Prayer and Self Denial needs to be turned to Judy Anton as soon as possible.

Some of our ladies will be going to La Porte City Nursing & Rehab April 5th. They will be taking cakes and gifts to help the residents with birthdays in April to celebrate. Thanks ladies.

Holy Week has lots of opportunities.

April 5 is Holy Thursday. Come at 7:00 PM to hear a beautiful Cantata, entitled "The Way of the Cross Leads Home."

April 6 is Good Friday Service at 7:00 PM.

April 8 is Easter Sunday. Breakfast is being served by the Trustees from 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM. Church services will be at 8:30 AM and 11:00AM.

April's bible verse is Psalm 119:73. "Thy Hands made me and fashioned me, Give me understanding that I may learn thy commandments". As we study the scriptures we learn what plans God has for us and how He wants us to live.

I'd like to share some suggestions a friend shared with me that might help you to walk closer to God.

1. WAKE UP!! Decide to have a good day. "Today is the day the Lord hath made; let us rejoice and be glad in it." PSALM 118:24.

2. DRESS UP!! The best way to dress up is to put on a smile. A smile is a inexpensive way to improve your looks. "The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at outward appearance; but the Lord looks at the heart." 1 SAMUEL 16:7.

3. SHUT UP!! Say nice things and learn to listen. God gave us two ears and one mouth, so he must have meant for us to do twice as much listening as talking. "He who guards his lips guards his soul." PROVERBS 13:3.

4. STAND UP!! For what you believe in. Stand for something or you will fall for anything. "Let us not be weary in doing good; for at the proper time, we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good..." GALATIANS 6:9-10.

5. LOOK UP!! To the Lord. "I can do everything through Christ who strengthens me". PHILIPPIANS 4:13.

6. REACH UP!! For something higher. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not unto your own understanding. In all your ways, acknowledge Him, and He will direct your path." PROVERBS 3:5-6.

7. LIFT UP!! Your prayers. "Do not worry about anything; instead PRAY ABOUT EVERYTHING." PHILIPPIANS 4:6.

Let us know what you think about these suggestions.

APRIL 28 AT 6:00 PM is our MOTHER DAUGHTER BANQUET. Tickets will be on sale April 1st. Remember if you don't have a daughter that can attend, adopt someone for the evening. Make plans to come for a fun filled evening with great food.

Wishing you a great spring. Get outside if you can and take in the awakening of all the beautiful plants and flowers.

Pat and Charlene



## Special Charge Conference on Sunday, April 15 at 9:45 AM in

Ethan Wellman is beginning his candidacy process for ministry in the UMC. As a result, one of the first steps is that St. Paul UMC needs to hold a special Charge Conference to vote on approving his candidacy. A Charge Conference is open to all Members of the Church. This special Charge Conference will be held on Sunday, April 15 at 9:45 AM (between the two worship services) in Fellowship Hall.

## *Education News*

### Upcoming Education Events

April 1<sup>st</sup>: Palm Sunday, Adult and Children's Choir bring in the palms!

April 8<sup>th</sup>: Easter, No Sunday School

April 22<sup>nd</sup>: Recognition Sunday for Seniors of 2012 during both church services.

April 29<sup>th</sup>: Children's Choir, (during 8:30 service)

May 20<sup>th</sup>: Confirmation Sunday and Children's Choir (during 8:30 service) Last day of Sunday School for 2011-2012 year,

If you are a graduate, we would like to recognize and celebrate your accomplishment in worship on Sunday, April 22nd. Please contact the office if you are part of our church family and will be graduating in 2012.

*Vacation Bible School*  
*June 18 – 21, 2012*  
*9 – 11:30 a.m.*



**This year's Bible School is "SKY, Everything is Possible with God" Mark 10: 27**

As the Vacation Bible School committee begins preparations for this year's event, we ask for your help ... **through your prayers, your participation (Would YOU like to be part of the "Flight Crew") and your donations.** This special summer program is for children from 4 year old Preschoolers through present Fifth Graders. It is open to children of all denominations.

If you would like to be part of this exciting and uplifting experience, contact the church office or one of the planning committee members.

VBS Planning Committee: Laurie Driscoll, Mary Fratzke, Norma Hager,  
Jennie Lorenzen, and Lynne Peters

## Outreach/Evangelism News

At our March meeting, we worked on different ways to reach out to our world, state, and community. We were grateful for the 84 sacks of food we delivered to the Lord's pantry here in La Porte City. We were delighted to hear the wonderful ways Kelly is continually learning, sharing, and delighting those around him. We are also making plans to enrich the lives of the people around us.

Our committee appreciates the donations that have been made for the Lenten Offerings. This year the offerings will go to: House of Hope, sister church in Malawi, Bidwell Riverside, and Spirit Lake Reservation. Donations can be put in the offering or sent to the office.

We are in the process of completing our summer schedule that offers many opportunities for getting together. Already in place are a day at the lake, family time in the country, and an afternoon at the LPC Golf Club for golfing, games, and food. Signup sheets with dates and times will be available soon. We are looking for hosts and hostesses for other opportunities to offer our congregation and friends to enjoy.

Here are some ideas: Muffins in the Morning, Picnic in the Park, Walking the Trail, Camping/Campfire, Lunch/Supper Date at a Local Restaurant, Sundae Sunday, Family Kickball Game. Be creative and have fun! Call Teri Klockner (342-2487) to host an event, and set a date and time, or offer new ideas!

Here are some mission opportunities coming up:

- ◆ April 28, trip to Northeast Iowa Food Bank leaving the church at 8:30 and returning by noon. Call the church office (342-2208) or Marcia Bechthold (231-6386) if you will be going.
- ◆ Malawi Mission trip is set for July 11-24. Contact Pastor Mike for additional information.
- Spirit Lake Reservation mission trip is scheduled for August 5-10. Contact Scot Morris if interested in this affordable opportunity.

Even though fall is a few months away, please mark your calendar for September 16, when RISEN will be back in La Porte City to perform for our community. A wonderful Christian concert in the park is being planned for that afternoon.

As we continue to plan, evaluate, and try to make a difference, in accordance to our Church Council goals, we will remember:

Acts 6:4, "But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word."



## SPRC NEWS-Pastor's Vacation

SPRC (Staff Parish Relations Committee) would like to let the congregation know that Pastor Mike's vacation is set by 'The Book of Discipline for the UMC.' He is given four weeks of vacation plus one additional week for continuing education, which is considered mandatory for all pastors.



When it comes to mission work and events like Emmaus, SPRC has made the decision that this work is part of the Pastor's job responsibilities and should not be considered part of his vacation time. Pastor Mike has two mission trips planned this summer. He will be in Malawi July 11-24 and in Spirit Lake August 8-10. While Pastor Mike feels that mission work is very important, he does try to limit the time that he is away from St. Paul.



The SPRC committee is always open to any comments or concerns that members of St. Paul may have relating to the church staff. We are here to serve the Church, so if you have a question please let us know.

Sherry Sheffler, SPRC Chairman



# APRIL



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Palm Sunday Traditional 8:30 am Sunday School 9:45 am Contemporary 11:00 am	2 Office Closed Fitness @ 6 pm Shawl Ministry 7 pm	3 Finance Mtg. 10 am Trustees Mtg. 7:00 pm	4 Prayer 9:30 am CIA 5:30 pm 7 pm Choir @ 6 pm Jubilation @ 7 pm Education Mtg. 7 pm	5 Faith Kindness 9 am Fitness @ 6 pm Holy Thursday Cantata 7 pm	6 Office Closed  Good Friday Service @ 7 pm	7
8 Easter Sunday Traditional 8:30 am Breakfast 7:30- 11:30 am No Sunday School Contemporary 11:00 am	9 Office Closed Fitness @ 6 pm Shawl Ministry 7 pm	10 Outreach Mtg. 4:00 pm Council 6:30 pm	11 Prayer 9:30 am CIA 5:30 pm 7 pm Choir @ 6 pm Jubilation @ 7 pm	12 Fitness @ 6 pm	13	14
15 Traditional 8:30 am Sunday School 9:45 am Contemporary 11:00 am	16 Office Closed Fitness @ 6 pm Shawl Ministry 7 pm	17 Worship Mtg. 7 pm	18 Peace Circle 9 am @ church Prayer 9:30 am CIA 5:30 pm Choir @ 6 pm Jubilation @ 7 pm	19 Fitness @ 6 pm	20	21
22 Traditional 8:30 am Sunday School 9:45 am Contemporary 11:00 am	23 Office Closed Fitness @ 6 pm Shawl Ministry 7 pm	24 Meekness 7 pm	25 Prayer 9:30 am CIA 5:30 pm Choir @ 6 pm Jubilation @ 7 pm	26 SPRC Mtg. @ 6:30 pm Fitness @ 6 pm	27	28 NE Iowa Food Bank Trip 8:30-12:00 UMW Mother Daughter Banquet 6 pm
29 Traditional 8:30 am Sunday School 9:45 am Contemporary 11:00 am Children Sing	30 Office Closed Fitness @ 6 pm Shawl Ministry 7 pm					

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 Email: [lpcumc@netins.net](mailto:lpcumc@netins.net)  
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## **NEWSLETTER**

### **2012**

### **UPCOMING SERMONS**

- |                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| <b>April 1, 2012</b>  | Palm Sunday ~ “The Greatest April Fool’s Day Ever!”<br>Scripture: Matthew 27:11-26 |
| <b>April 5, 2012</b>  | Holy Thursday ~ Cantata 7:00 pm  |
| <b>April 6, 2012</b>  | Good Friday Service 7:00 pm  |
| <b>April 8, 2012</b>  | Easter Sunday ~ “This is the Big One!”<br>Scripture: John 20:1-18                  |
| <b>April 15, 2012</b> | “When Light Meets the Dark by Amy Pollpeter<br>Scripture: 2 Corinthians 1:3-4      |
| <b>April 22, 2012</b> | Gabe will be giving the Sermon   |
| <b>April 29, 2012</b> | “The Future of St. Paul UMC: Service”<br>Scripture: Galatians 5:13-14              |

