

My friends I hope that you are as excited about the future of St. Paul UMC as I am! When I look at where we have been, the storms we have weathered, the talent that we have been blessed with, and where the Holy Spirit is taking us, our future potential is simply unlimited.

Over the last four newsletters, I have written about a wonderful study that researched what makes the difference between stagnant or declining United Methodist Churches, versus those that are vibrant, growing, and making a difference in the world in the name of Jesus Christ. In this study it became clear that there are four actionable areas that distinguished these two types of Churches. And as a result, our Church Council has set goals in these four areas that will drive our work over the next several years.

In this article, I want to recap these four goals. Please take the time to get to know these four areas as this will help you understand how the Church Council will make decisions in the future.

The Mission Statement of the United Methodist Church: To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Goal #1 – Small Group Attendance

High Vitality Study Results: For high vitality UM Churches similar in size to St. Paul UMC, the total number of small groups and programs per year are: Adults = 12.1; Youth 12-18 = 3.5; and Children under 12 = 6.7; for a total of 22.3 per year.

St. Paul UMC's Goal: Maintain our current levels which already exceed the minimums for high vitality Churches our size, by annually having at least 25 adult small groups (small groups include study, fellowship, and/or service groups), 12 youth programs (programs include classes and other programs), and 9 children's programs (programs include classes and other activities), for a total of 46 per year.

Goal #2 – Committee Member Rotation and Expectations

High Vitality Study Results: For high vitality UM Churches similar in size to St. Paul UMC, the total is at least 25% of the average worship attendees are either currently servicing on committees, or have served on committees in the previous five years. In addition, all committee members are expected to demonstrate their faith through prayer, attending Bible studies, regular attendance at weekly worship services, proportional giving, participating in mission opportunities, and sharing their faith.

St. Paul UMC's Goal: Maintain our current levels, which already exceed the minimums for high vitality UM Churches our size, by continuing to bring in new lay leaders and rotate lay leaders on all Church committees with the goal of having at least 48% of the average worship attendees either currently serving on committees or having served on committees in the previous five years. All committee members will be expected to demonstrate their faith through prayer, attending Bible studies, regular attendance at weekly worship services, proportional giving, participating in mission opportunities, and sharing their faith.

Goal #3 – Two Different Types of Worship Services: Traditional and Contemporary

High Vitality Study Results: For high vitality UM Churches similar in size to St. Paul UMC, they offer two different types of worship services: Traditional and Contemporary.

St. Paul UMC's Goal: By January 8, 2012 establish a new traditional service and a new contemporary worship service, with the goal by December 31, 2013 of having total average Sunday worship attendance of 200 by adding up both worship services.

(Continued on next page)

Goal #4 – Expectations of a Pastor at a High Vitality Church

High Vitality Study Results: Pastors at high vitality Churches provide inspirational preaching, develop and influence leaders, and set significant stretch goals for the Church.

St. Paul UMC Goal: Set goals with the Pastor in the areas of inspirational preaching, developing and influencing leaders by providing both positive and development feedback and training, and setting significant stretch goals for the Church. This will be measured by an annual survey of the congregation and will be completed by the SPRC.

As you read the goals, I hope that you can see why I am so excited about our future. This is because we are already exceeding the minimums in several areas. That shows that the Holy Spirit is alive and well in our Church and we have a wonderful foundation to build upon. If you have any questions, please talk with me or with any of the Church Council members.

Have a blessed and awesome 2012!
Pastor Mike

BUDGET INFORMATION FOR DECEMBER

<u>Date</u>	<u>RECEIVED</u>	<u>CHRISTMAS OFFERING</u>
December 4	\$6,885.01	
December 11	\$2,218.02	\$265.00
December 18	\$2,604.00	\$350.00
December 25	\$1,881.50	\$635.00



*Monthly
Budget Update*

We remember the wise men as told in Matt. 2:11 “and going into the house they saw the Child with Mary, His mother, and they fell down and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered Him gifts...”

Our Mexican neighbors open their gifts on King’s Day, Jan. 6. thank you for all of your gifts to the Lord throughout the year. May you be blessed in 2012.

Would You Like to be a Happy Helper?

Some of us would like to make shorts and shirts for the boys, and dresses, skirts, and tops for the girls of Malawi. We will need fabric, elastic, trims, and simple patterns. Please do not buy anything. Some of us want to use our stashes first. We will meet on the second Monday (January 9th) at my home. Come anytime between 9 am and 3 pm. We need people to cut, sew, and press. I will have a pot of soup ready, and if you want to bring a snack or something to go with the meal that would be great. Let me know if you are interested in coming. I will give you more details then. We will discuss how we want to continue this project when we meet in January.



Norma Hager 342-2954

This is what the Traditional Service will look like:

Prelude
Welcome and Announcements
*Greeting
*Processional Hymn
*Apostle's Creed
*Call to Worship
*Unison Prayer
*Response (#70 Glory Be to the Father)
Choir **OR** Noisy Sunday (on the last Sunday of each month)
Prayers of the People

- Sharing of Joys and Concerns
- Prayer of Intercession
- The Lord's Prayer

Special Music/Tone Chimes/Baptism/ New Members/etc.
*Scripture Reading
Teaching
*Offering (with Communion on 1st Sunday)
*Doxology
*Closing Hymn

This is what the Contemporary Service will look like:

*Welcome Song
*Altar Prayer Call with 2 or 3 Prayer Partners
Words of Witness
Prayers of the People

- The Lord's Prayer

*Praise Song
Welcome and Announcements
*Worship Song
Special Music/Skit/Baptism/New Members/ etc.
Scripture Reading
Teaching
*Offering (with Communion on 1st Sunday)
*(Noisy Sunday on last Sunday of each month- have a few cans up front when people bring up their offering)
*Blessing
*Stand if you are able

Thank You

A big thank you to all those who helped with the Christmas decoration update! The Memorial Gift in memory of their Mother, Toots Niemeyer - Mary Fratzke and Ann Williams.

The helpers: Patty Batchelder, Ken Benda, Ron Crooks, Dick Christian, Norma Hager, Carolyn Harwood, Jim Kullmer, Barb Lee, Bob Lee, Gary Sheffler, Sherry Sheffler, and Patty Wood .

A special thank you to Liz Winther and Bev Crooks for their design, doing the shopping, and decorating our Sanctuary, Chapel, Fellowship Hall, Library, the offices and even the bathrooms for this Blessed Christmas Season. We truly appreciate everyone's help. Thank You. The Worship Committee



United Methodist Women

Thank you to everyone who helped make our Christmas Brunch a great morning. Special congratulations to Mae Schrader on receiving our "Special Mission Recognition" award. Can you believe it, 2012! Most of us can still remember when the calendar was going to turn over to the year 2000. Wow, look at us now!

Let's start the year out with "Six Weeks of Love".

First week: Write a letter. It could be a letter of appreciation; it could be a letter of reconciliation to someone; it could be a letter of encouragement to someone you appreciate; or it may be a letter of love that only you can write.



Second week: Make one phone call this week just for the propose of saying, "I appreciate you" or "you mean a lot to me" or "Thank you", or whatever else you feel like saying. You may want to make more than one call.



Third week: Take or send some remembrance to a person ---a pie or a cake, a flower or a book, etc.--pick out someone you don't usually remember.



Fourth week: Week of prayer -- Pick out someone and pray daily for them.



Fifth week: Visit someone who needs your company. Learn from your pastor or a friend who needs a visit, share a meal, go shopping.



Sixth week: Show your family that they are important to you. Fix a favorite dish, watch a movie, play some games, bring them to church with you.



These "Six Weeks of Love" are suggested by our UMW District. Let me know how you do week by week.

Our bible verse to start the year off tells of God's promise to us if we are in a covenant relationship with him.

Revelations 21:3-5a And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them, he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away." And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See I am making all things new."

Let's remember this promise and make 2012 our best year yet!

Wishing you a healthy, happy, New Year!

Pat and Charlene

Education Update

The St. Paul United Methodist youth presented “OhMyGoodness” on December 11th, reminding us of the real reason that we celebrate Christmas. Thanks go out to our directors, Jennie Lorenzen and Laurie Driscoll, for their hard work and enthusiasm to ensure the program’s success.

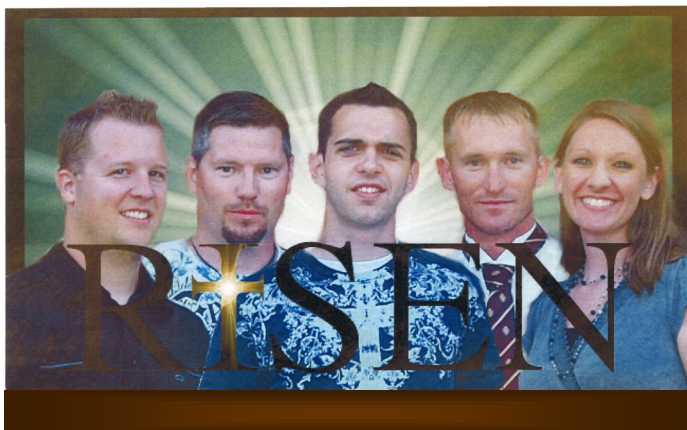
With the beginning of the Year 2012, our education committee wants to welcome Sally Moody to our group. Great to have you join us, Sally!

Sunday School classes resume on January 8th, at 9:45 am.



"Risen" Concert Rescheduled to Saturday, January 21 at 7:00 PM

Because the championship game for our Union football team ended up on the same date as our previously scheduled "Risen" concert, we decided to postpone the concert. The new date has been set for Saturday, January 21 at 7:00 PM. Invite your family, friends, co-workers, and even people who don't like church to come to this wonderful concert. "Risen" will rock the house once again!



St. Paul United Methodist Church
501 Sycamore Street
La Porte City, IA

Come and Explore Music



La Porte City – St. Paul United Methodist Church invites you to participate in a fun and educational series of classes on music! Music director Gabe Schott, a music education student at UNI, will lead a **twelve-week series** of classes, “**Exploring Music**,” on **Sunday** mornings, **9:45-10:30 a.m.** in the Fellowship Hall located in the basement of the church. The series begins on Sunday, January 15.

“People have been asking for help with the basics,” said Gabe Schott. “We don’t know how to read music like we used to.” This class is intended to fill in some of those gaps with things like notes, chords and rhythms, and even a bit about the history of music. “In the end, it’s about **learning to read and sing music**—and of course **enjoying** ourselves along the way.”

St. Paul UMC is located at 501 Sycamore Street in La Porte City, which is about a block south of Main. St. Paul offers two worship services, traditional at 8:30 a.m. and contemporary at 11:00 a.m. All are welcome at the “Exploring Music” series. No sign-up is necessary, but if you have questions you can contact Gabe Schott at 515/313-7765 or schottg@uni.edu.

2012

JANUARY

2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 No Sunday School Worship 9:00 am A HAPPY NEW YEAR	2 Office Closed Fitness @ 6 pm Shawl Ministry 7 pm	3 Trustees Mtg. 6 pm	4 Prayer 9:30 am CIA 5:30 pm Education Mtg, 7 pm Choir 5-6 pm	5 Faith Kindness 9 am Fitness @ 6 pm	6	7
8 Traditional Worship @ 8:30 am Traditional Worship @ 8:30 Sunday School	9 Office Closed Fitness @ 6 pm Shawl Ministry 7 pm	10 Finance Mtg. 10 am Outreach Mtg. 4:00 pm Council 6:30 pm	11 Prayer 9:30 Choir 5-6 pm Praise 6-7:30 pm CIA 5:30-7pm	12 Fitness @ 6 pm	13	14 CIA 8-11 am Fundraiser Breakfast
15 Traditional Worship @ 8:30 am Sunday School 9:45 am Contemporary Worship @	16 Office Closed Fitness @ 6 pm Shawl Ministry 7 pm	17	18 Prayer 9:30 am Choir 5-6 pm Praise 6-7:30 pm CIA 5:30-7 pm	19 Fitness @ 6 pm	20	21 Risen Concert 7 pm
22 Traditional Worship @ 8:30 am Sunday School 9:45 am Contemporary Worship @	23 Office Closed Fitness @ 6 pm Shawl Ministry 7 pm	24	25 Prayer 9:30 am Choir 5-6 pm Praise 6-7:30 pm CIA 5:30-7 pm	26 Fitness @ 6 pm	27	28
29 Traditional Worship @ 8:30 am Sunday School 9:45 am Contemporary Worship @ 11 am	30 Office Closed Fitness @ 6 pm Shawl Ministry 7 pm	31				

St Paul United Methodist Church
501 Sycamore St. Box 187
La Porte City, IA 50651



Phone: 319-342-2208
Email: lpcumc@netins.net
Website: www.lpcsaintpaulumc.org

A NEW YEAR! TIME to GET FIT

St. Paul's Fitness Ministry meets Monday and Thursdays 6:00-6:45 pm and on Saturday mornings at 8:00 am.

These sessions focus on getting stronger, increasing flexibility as well as heart fitness. There is Christian music that honors God and helps us focus on Him. There is scripture and a short Bible lesson and prayer.

We support each other and have FUN!



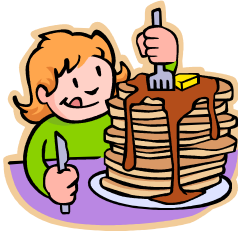
All fitness levels are welcome. There is a \$5.00 per month fee to cover cost of supplies. We meet in Fellowship Hall. Wear comfortable clothes and good, supportive shoes.

CHRISTIANS IN ACTION

Cookie Walk: Our second annual cookie walk was a big success again this year. Thanks to everyone who helped, donated, or purchased! We are grateful to have such a supportive church family. The money earned will help us send our youth group to Minneapolis for an awesome Christian event. Thanks again!

CIA Pancake Breakfast

Our final fundraiser before our ATF event is a breakfast. Please come join us and enjoy some great food and some great fellowship!



All you can eat pancakes
Free-will donation
January 14th 8am-11am

WEATHER RELATED CHURCH CLOSING NOTIFICATIONS

All weather-related church closings will be announced on two TV stations: KCRG Channel 9 and KWWL Channel 7.

Since there are several churches in the area with the name "St. Paul", always look for "La Porte City St. Paul UMC." Cancellation notices will also be posted on the St. Paul UMC site on Facebook.

During the week, as a general rule of thumb, if Union Schools are closed, then the church will be closed.



St. Paul United Methodist Church
501 Sycamore St. Box 187
La Porte City, IA 50651

January

NEWSLETTER

2012

UPCOMING SERMONS

January 1, 2012

9:00 AM Service Only
Ethan Wellman will be preaching

January 8, 2012

“Wonderful Radical Christian Truths:
The Faith – Given Once and For All”
Scripture: Jude 1:3

January 15, 2012

“The Wonderful Radical Christian Truths:
What Went Right, What Went Wrong”
Scripture: Genesis 1:31a; 3:24

January 22, 2012

“The Wonderful Radical Christian Truths”
The Free Gift—Costly Grace”
Luke 23:40-43

January 29, 2012

“The Wonderful Radical Christian Truths”
The Trinity-God Above, God Beside, God Within”
Scripture: 1 John 4:11-16

