

May 2024

## *Greetings from the Pastor*

Isn't May just a wonderful time of the year? The grass has turned green, the buds on the trees have burst and the new leaves have started to come out. The daffodils have bloomed and are already fading, but the tulips and crocuses, for the most part are in bloom and looking good. With the sun higher in the sky the temperatures are consistently warmer. Once again, the farmers are out working the fields and planting their crops and many a gardener has planted their early growing plants, like potatoes, onions, and radishes, to name a few. Even the tree that was planted in the back yard of the parsonage is full of buds with the little leaves about ready to burst into foliage.

This time of year, always makes me think of God and of all the creation that he has made. In Genesis 1: 11-13 it says: <sup>11</sup> *Then God said, "Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds." And it was so.* <sup>12</sup> *The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.* <sup>13</sup> *And there was evening, and there was morning—the third day.* And it still astonishes me every spring as the earth and the plants awaken again and come to life. In Ecclesiastes 3:1-12 King Solomon wrote:

<sup>1</sup> *There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven:*

<sup>2</sup> *a time to be born and a time to die,  
a time to plant and a time to uproot,*

<sup>3</sup> *a time to kill and a time to heal,  
a time to tear down and a time to build,*

<sup>4</sup> *a time to weep and a time to laugh,  
a time to mourn and a time to dance,*

<sup>5</sup> *a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain,*

<sup>6</sup> *a time to search and a time to give up,  
a time to keep and a time to throw away,*

<sup>7</sup> *a time to tear and a time to mend,  
a time to be silent and a time to speak,*

<sup>8</sup> *a time to love and a time to hate,  
a time for war and a time for peace.*

<sup>9</sup> *What does the worker gain from his toil?* <sup>10</sup> *I have seen the burden God has laid on men.* <sup>11</sup> *He has made everything beautiful in its time.*

I urge everyone, as they enjoy the spring and all the beauty that surrounds us, to think of who it is that gave us such beauty and give him thanks, not only at this special time of the year, but always.

I also want to take this time to congratulate all our high school seniors on their upcoming graduations. This milestone in their education should never be discounted in any way and all high school seniors should be praised for this accomplishment by everyone. Fulfillment of this stage of their education will serve them well as they continue their life paths, whether that is continued higher education or beginning that all important first job. Again, "Congratulations Seniors."

Peace be with you all.  
Pastor Allen Craft

Friendly reminder!

There will be a special Ad Council meeting **Tuesday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024 to go over the CAT (Church Assessment Tool) survey. All chair persons of all committees, as well as the full SPRC committee are asked to attend this meeting, so please mark your calendars.** Our new pastor, Moody Colorado, will be in attendance, as well as Ryan Christianson (Annual Conference Associate Director for Congregational Excellence) who will explain and help us understand what the survey has to offer us as we plan for the future of our church.

## *Lay Leader Notes*

By Cindy Morse



Greetings to my St. Paul church family-----

We can faithfully say that Spring is here with warmer days, grass beginning to grow and turning green. May has many special days, Mother's Day, High School graduations, and college graduations.

Wherever you are in your faith journey; following are quotes as well as Bible scriptures for all to read, to support all in their day-to-day living-----

" God never said the journey would be easy, but He said that the arrival would be worthwhile".  
Max Lucado.

Your prayers matter to God.

Seek His presence continually. Psalm 105:4

C. O. F F. E. E. ----- Christ Offers Forgiveness for Everyone Everywhere.

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16.

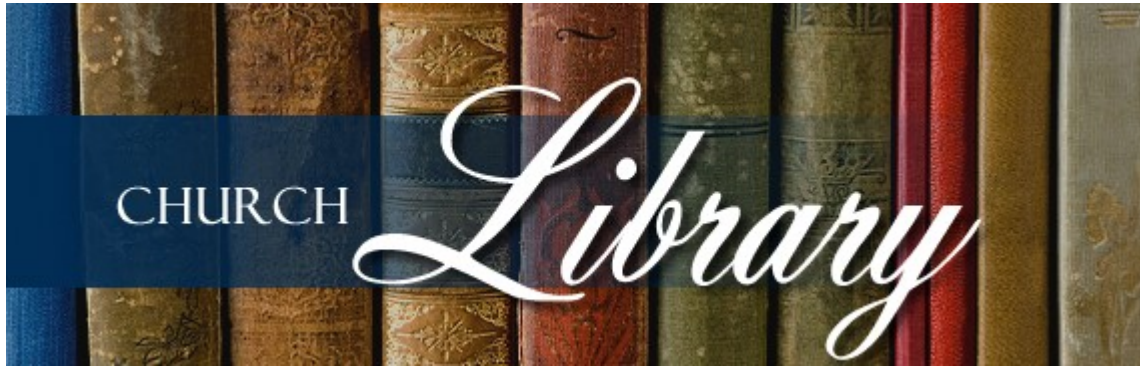
By contrast, the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Galatians 5: 22

Jesus said" I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. John 6: 35

In closing ----

Do all the good you can  
By all the means you can  
In all the ways you can  
In all the places you can  
To all the people you can  
As long as ever you can

Amen.



### *What does our Church Library have for you?*

The Church Library has many ranges of books for you to enjoy reading.

#### **Search tools are available for you to use.**

- ⇒ You can search on the shelves
- ⇒ You can search in the binder
- ⇒ Category
- ⇒ Author's
- ⇒ Title
- ⇒ New Material



You are welcome to stop in and check out a book or two for your reading.

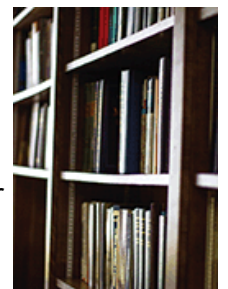
### *Book of the Month*

“What does it mean to fear God?”

One of the new books that have arrived in our library “The AWE of God”. In the AWE of God, Bevere invites you to take a fresh look at what it means to work out your salvation with fear and trembling. This largely forgotten virtue is the uncommon path to a fulfilled and fruitful life. You will discover how holy fear:

- Is vital to a close relationship with God
- Frees us from all other fears and anxieties
- Purifies our inward motives and intentions
- Leads us into true wisdom, understanding, and knowledge

Holy Awe unlocks life as God intended. Only in developing and clinging to this virtue do we find peace, safety, and joy that many find unattainable. Rather than covering before our Creator, embracing the fear of God will raise us to a higher level of living that forever changes us.



# Outreach Opportunities

Happy Birthday – If you have been blessed to celebrate another birthday, would you consider a donation to the Birthday Box? Gifts here are used for unexpected situations that can use our help.

We are planning to have Summer Food for kids again. Will you help?



We need individual servings of mac and cheese, applesauce, and fruit. Also, peanut butter, spaghetti and sauce, and tuna and tuna helper. Notice the display in the back of the church. Items can be left in the library.



May God bless you  
As you bless others.

## Finance Update

March 3rd	\$3426.11
March 10th	\$1294.00
March 17th	\$1880.00
March 24th	\$3860.00
March 31st	\$4682.83
April 7th	\$4725.00
April 14th	\$1642.00
April 21st	\$2065.00



*Thank you for all the ways  
that you contribute to God's  
work.*





United  
Women  
in Faith

## UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH MAY 2024

May 12 is the day set aside to celebrate Mother's Day. We are celebrating All Women Everywhere who have ever been a mother to anyone.

The Bible defines a mother according to purpose. Her purpose is one who "binds" the family together, holding them together individually and collectively through her love and actions.

Mothers in the Bible are depicted as honorable beings worthy of love and respect of their children and the entire community. A woman, Mary, brought the savior, Jesus Christ, into the world, and in this regard, every mother in the world is believed to be connected to Mother Mary.

The 5 roles of a mother are:

To Love (unconditionally)  
To care (physically and emotionally)

To correct (to discipline and train)  
To build (to encourage and teach)

To correct (to learn with your children and grow with them)

Helen Steiner Rice shares this poem about Mothers,  
"Mother Is A Word Called Love"

Mother is a word called Love And all the world is mindful of the Love that's given and shown to others is different from The Love of Mothers... For Mothers play the leading roles in giving birth to little souls, For though "small souls" are heaven sent and we realize they're only lent,

It takes a mother's loving hands and her gentle heart that understands to mold and shape this little life and shelter it through storm and strife...

No other love than Mother Love could do the things required of the one to whom God gives the keeping of His wee lambs, awake or sleeping—

So Mother are a "special race" God sent to earth to take His place,  
And Mother is a lovely name That even Saints are proud to claim.

"So faith, hope, and love abide, these three, but the greatest of these is love. 1 Corinthians 13:3

Our Bible Verse for May is found in Isaiah 66:13.

"As a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you; you shall be comforted in Jerusalem."

Happy Mother's Day, Blessings to you and your loved ones.  
Pat and Charlene



# EDUCATION NEWS!

**May 12<sup>th</sup>**

Last Day of Sunday School for this school year  
Mother's Day!

**SAVE the DATES!**

**Vacation Bible School**

**June 17-20<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**9 am – 11:30 each morning**











Come join the FUN!

Registration online, call the church (319-342-2208) or text Mary Fratzke, (319-240-7347)





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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 National Day Of Prayer <u>PLANT SALE</u> 3:00-6:00 p.m.	3 Friendship Day <u>PLANT SALE</u> 3:00-6:00 p.m.	4
5 Worship 10:00 a.m.	6 Bible Study 1:30 pm  Shawl Ministry 7:00 p.m.	7 Worship Mtg. 9:00 a.m.	8  Jubilation 6:30 p.m.	9 Ascension Day 	10	11
12 * Mother's Day * Ascension Sunday Festival of the Christian Home	13 Bible Study 1:30 pm  Shawl Ministry 7:00 p.m.	14  Special Ad Council 6:00 pm	15 Joy Circle 9:00 a.m.  Jubilation 6:30 p.m.	16	17	18
19 No Sunday School Worship 10:00 am Heritage Sunday	20 Bible Study 1:30 pm  Shawl Ministry 7:00 p.m.	21	22  Jubilation 6:30 p.m.	23	24 Aldersgate Day	25
26 NOISY SUNDAY	27 Memorial Day	28  Meekness Circle 7:00 p.m.	29  Jubilation 6:30 p.m.	30	31	
						

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