

December 2023

Issue 112

Volume 2

Sharing Good News

St. Paul's UCC Delano, Minnesota



****Birthdays****

- 12/02 Mary Carter**
- 12/07 Mary Moore**
- 12/10 James Woirwor**
- 12/16 Bridget Haefner**
- 12/23 Betty Rieder**
- 12/29 Sheldon Larson**



****Dates to be Noted****

- 12/03 Communion**
- 12/10 Council Meeting (After Fellowship)**
- 12/21 First Day of Winter**
- 12/24 Christmas Eve (See Page 3)**
- 12/25 Christmas Day (No Service)**
- 12/31 New Year's Eve**



Fellowship Hosts

- 12/03 Hussing/McDonald**
- 12/10 Stewart & ?**
- 12/17 Specht**
- 12/24 Hagerty**
- 12/31 Open**



St. Paul's United Church of Christ
Unapproved Council Meeting Minutes
November 19, 2023

Call to order @ 10:35 AM

Started with a prayer initiated by President Mike Hagerty

- **Attendees:** Mike Hagerty, Dave Rieder and Pastor Bridget
- **Guest:** Meg Conrard
- **Absent:** Laura Johns

- **Old Business:**

- Motion to approve minutes by Jim from September 2023, all in favor, motion carried.
- No update on accompaniment- could potentially get recorded organ music with a fix to our current organ
- Get the video from Mitch Kezar on the website- Dave will talk to Mitch about it
- Africa fundraiser went well. +\$3,000 was raised- need to make contact with Peggy
- Dave and Hal + electrician talking about new lights
- Dave fixed steps and cleaned the carpets
- Jim talked to both Green Wealth and Hal Becker about separating cemetery funds and the entire checking account. All have decided to not separate accounts. At year end, we will assess what can be put into the perpetual care fund.

New Business:

-5 year plan input from Meg: fundraising efforts suggestions:

- Silent and live auctions
- Rummage/yard sale
- Craft show/sale
- Ice cream social
- Website with a donate button? GIVE BUTTER (Laura's suggestion-post meeting)
- 5 year plan needs to be edited, will do in December
- Is there interest in donating extra clothes to Liberia?
- Year end gifts: Will talk about it next month
- Delano sesquicentennial 2026- Is there someone from our church that wants to be a part of the planning committee for the city?

Financial Report:

- Checking account saw an increase since September
- Potentially another library cost coming
- Utilities are higher than last year
- Green Wealth is down again
- Missions: our church's wider mission (an expense), we budget for \$1000, but we have already given \$1,500. \$1,045 designated for OGHS, plus extra funds available for other missions. Jim will talk to Geralyn about the Liberian wells.
- Must decide about our year end donations.

Dave motioned to accept, all in favor, motion carried.

Pastors Report:

-Bulletin in question: Looking for a volunteer to put the bulletin together to relieve Bridget (Let Bridget or council members know) also talk about font and paper size. To be continued.

-Next meeting is December 10, 2023

*Dave motioned to Adjourn, Jim seconded, Adjourned.

*****Message from Pastor Bridget*****

Appreciating Advent



We go through this “Advent time” every year. Kids appreciate an Advent Calendar. It’s fun to look for the next day, open the little door, and take out a little item like a toy car or a piece of candy. In a few homes there might also be a conversation about Advent as a waiting time. The disciples spread the word that although, Jesus died soon on the cross, he had risen. He was with us then and is with us now, and someday will come to judge the people.

That’s probably too much for children who are waiting for Santa Claus to be at the mall. These kids also might have an Elf on a Shelf to help them with their waiting. Very few of them will have a nativity set where they can see the angels gathering around and the baby Jesus will finally be born. It sounds extra special that he’s wrapped in swaddling cloth and laid in a manger.

It’s not just children who have trouble waiting. In our church I have struggled to keep Advent as an important part of the church year. A special time rather than a mini Christmas. The usual complaint is that Advent hymns are too sad and too slow and no one ever went door to door singing Advent hymns.

Christmas Carols are wonderful. We could sing them all year-around but we don’t think that’s “right”. SOOOO, this year the Worship Committee decided on more Christmas Carols during Advent. They also okayed more explanation of the candles that are lit surrounding the greens one week at a time. We hope that these small changes will help provide a glimpse of the Holy as we pray, sing and listen together.

Delano Herald Journal will be Advertising Our Church’s Christmas Eve Services

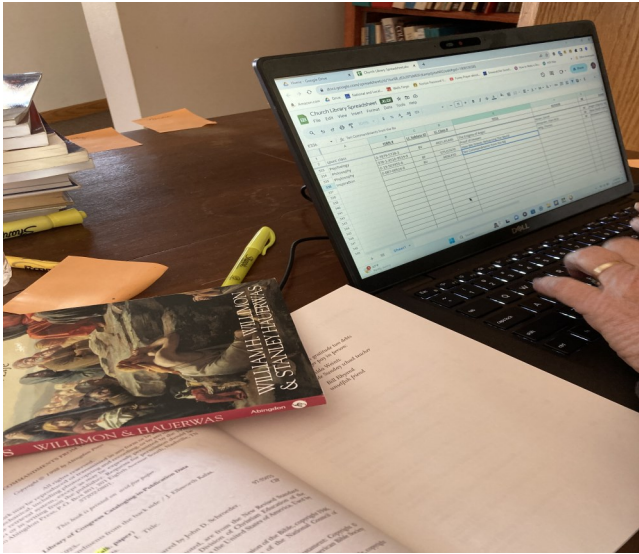


Financial Review November 1–30, 2023

Income (offerings): \$2,527
Total Expenses: \$3,859
Total Income/Loss: (\$1,332)



The Library is taking shape!



Library Update.....

The books are finally getting on the shelves!

Please give us a little more time to finalize the tagging and shelving of books. The library will include the shelving adjacent to Bridget office, so don't forget to look there too. We have moved the sign up stand to the far side of the ramp for easier access to the library shelving.

The books will be shelved by classification and marked with a colored dot for ease of returning and maintenance. These classifications loosely follow the Library of Congress outline.

We are thankful for the generous donation of books from Anne and Charlie Leck. Going forward if you would like to donate a book, please check with either Joyce or Shala.

We will be setting up an easy check out and check-in system.

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*St. Paul's United Church of Christ
201 Buffalo Street
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Delano, MN 55328*

December 2023



Pastor Bridget Haefner

Church Phone: (763) 972-6689

Pastor Phone: (952) 457-1085



Pastor Bridget's Usual Office Hours

Mondays: 11:00 am - 1:00 pm

Thursdays: 11:00 am - 1:00 pm

(Other times as requested. Call Bridget anytime!)

All are welcome at our in-person services, Sundays at 9:15 AM, or a Zoom link is also available.

Email: delanoucc@gmail.com
