

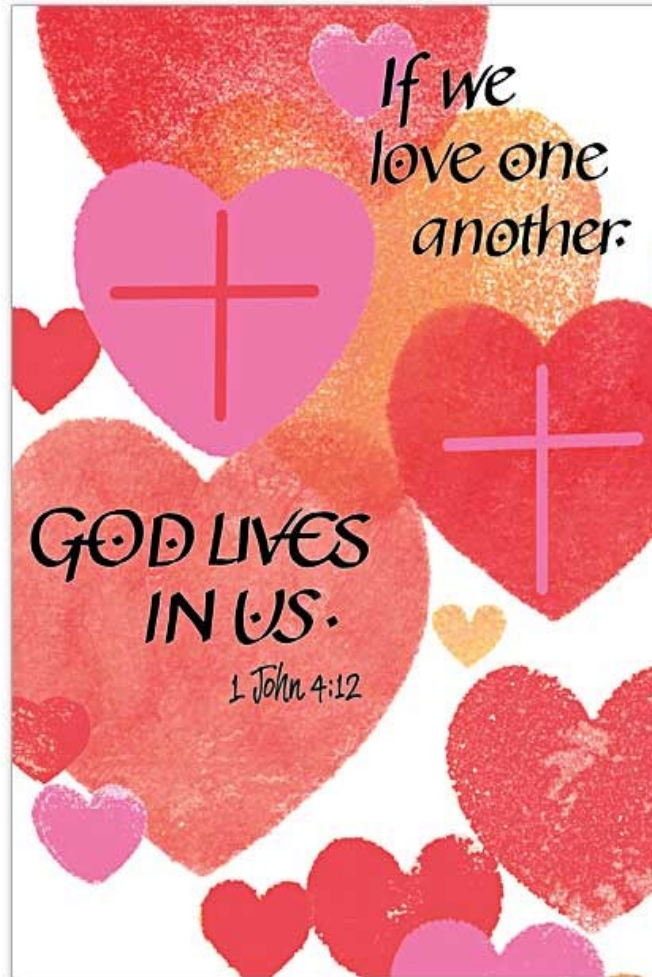
February 2024

Issue 114

Volume 2

Sharing Good News

St. Paul's UCC Delano, Minnesota



****Birthdays****

02/17 Tracy Gripentrog

02/20 Joyce Specht

02/28 Sarah Scholl-Czech

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

02/04 Communion

02/14 Valentine's Day

**02/17 Cultural Responsive Dinner
(see Page 3 for details)**

**02/18 Annual Meeting
(Following church service)**

No Council meeting in February

Annual meeting documents will be distributed via email . Copies will also be available prior to the meeting.

****Fellowship Hosts****

02/04 Conrard

02/11 Worley

02/18 Open

02/25 Stewart



Minutes of January 21, 2024 Council Meeting St. Paul's United Church of Christ, Delano

St. Paul's United Church of Christ's Council met January 21, 2024 at 10:55 a.m. Attendees were Council Members Michael Hagerty, James Holm, Judy Crosby and David Rieder, Pastor Bridget Haefner and church members Gretchen Stewart and Vicki Hagerty. Following an opening prayer led by Mike, the Council addressed the following items:

Minutes 12/10/23 Council Meeting. On motion by Jim, seconded by David, the Council unanimously approved the Minutes of the December 10, 2023 with the following edits: (1) change meeting date to "December 10, 2023," and (2) insert in the Minutes "[T]he Council unanimously approved inserting in St. Paul's Five-year Plan "St. Paul's 150th Anniversary Celebration."

Open Forum - Gretchen stated she is available to play piano or organ on dates previously provided; inquired who is responsible for song selection; and advised City of Delano is seeking suggestions on how to provide affordable housing for lower-income residents.

Financials. Jim reported the operating account balance is \$12,800; donations in the past month totaled \$14,700; the Green Wealth account balance is \$399,217. On motion made by David, seconded by Judy, the financial reported by Jim were unanimously approved by the Council. A special meeting of the Council will meet Sunday, January 28, at 10:40 a.m. to focus on the 2024 Budget drafted by Jim and prepare for the Annual Meeting scheduled on February 22, 2024.

Cemetery Committee. Judy inquired re end-of-year financials include a specific designated amount for the cemetery fund. Jim and Mike advised funds for all church needs are in the same accounts, not separated. Should the church be dissolved, a portion of the then available funds will then be moved to cemetery fund. Judy will prepare the Cemetery Committee Report for the annual meeting.

Pastor's Report. Pastor Bridget submitted a letter announcing her retirement effective April 1, 2024. A copy will be published in the church newsletter. Pastor Bridget's resignation was met with disappointment as her presence and service will be profoundly missed. Pastor Bridget stated UCC's Minnesota Council will assist locating pastoral candidates; they also can provide information regarding perpetual cemetery funding. Mike will contact UCC's MN Council.

Handicap Bathroom Accessibility Project. Dave presented a redesign for the handicap accessible bathroom in the space currently designated as the Ladies Room. The revised design includes removal of door and door frame into hall accessing bathrooms and widening that opening, replacement of the existing door with a wider door into the bathroom, removal of stall walls, flooring replacement and paint. Hand hold bars will be attached to the walls near the toilets in both bathrooms. The estimated cost is hundreds of dollars for materials only as Dave stated he will not charge for labor. On motion made by Jim, seconded by Mike, the Council unanimously approved proceeding with the redesigned handicap accessible bathroom project.

Annual Meeting. (1) Three church members will be elected to serve on the Council for two-year terms. Church members interested in running for Council should notify Mike or Jim. (2) Annual Reports to be presented include: Pastor Bridget's; Five-Year Plan and 2023 Accomplishments-Mike; Financial Affairs and 2024 Annual Budget-Jim; Cemetery Committee and Worship Service Reports-Judy. 3) A special meeting of the Council to prepare for the Annual Meeting is scheduled January 28 at 10:40 a.m.

Drone Video of Church. Jim and Mike are continuing efforts to post the video on the church website.

Minutes of January 21, 2024 Council Meeting Continued

Recycling of Plastic Film. David Dennison and a member of the Delano Women’s Club met with the Council and others to discuss the possibility of the church assuming responsibility for the NetTrex Plastic Film Recycling project in Delano. The Council unanimously agreed St. Paul’s does not have the people power nor the means to assume responsibility for the program. Michael will contact David Dennison to advise him of the Council’s decision. Any church members interested in volunteering to assist should contact David Dennison.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:35

Chili Cultural Responsive Dinner - February 17, 2024

St. Paul’s UCC will continue to study South America at it’s February Cultural Responsive Dinner with a celebration of the food, culture, and people of Chile in the Fellowship Hall on February 17, starting at 4:30 pm. Last time we learned about Argentina with the Bottoli family from Delano. We move on to their closest neighbor, Chile. This country runs along the border of Argentina and has 3,728 miles of Pacific Ocean coast. It is the home of Easter Island, Santiago, 42% of the world’s Astronomical Observatories, and a multitude of llamas and Penguins. The cookbook with suggested recipes for Chile will be sent out on one of the first days of the month. Please join us to meet a family with Chilean roots, sample a variety of their foods, and learn about this interesting country.

Shawne & Lani Brown-Worley



Financial Review January 1-31, 2024

Income (offerings): \$3,744
Total Expenses: \$4,929
Total Income/Loss: (\$1,185)



Minutes of January 28, 2024 Special Council Meeting
St. Paul's United Church of Christ, Delano

A Special Meeting of the Council of St. Paul's United Church of Christ convened on January 28, 2023 at 10:40 a.m. for the primary purposes of preparing the 2024 Annual Budget and planning for Pastoral replacement. Attendees were Council Members Michael Hagerty, James Holm, Judy Crosby and David Rieder, Pastor Bridget Haefner and church member Vicki Hagerty.

Old Business. On Motion made by Judy, seconded by David, Minutes of the January 21, 2024 Council meeting was unanimously approved as written.

2024 Annual Budget. Council members discussed each line item of the draft 2024 Annual Budget presented by Jim. Following review, Jim will edit a few numbers and forward the revised version of the 2024 Annual Budget to Council members for review and possible approval. The draft budget as it currently exists totals \$64,750, slightly less than the 2023 actual expenditures. The Council plans to forward the final 2024 Annual Budget and Annual Reports to congregants a few weeks prior to the Annual Meeting on February 18, 2024.

Pastoral Search. Mike reported he had a lengthy conversation with and received, a volume of materials from Cindy Mueller of United Church of Christ Minnesota. Mike was informed by Ms. Mueller the pastoral replacement process may take several months. An Interim Pastor may be necessary following Pastor Bridget's retirement until a permanent replacement pastor is in service. Following thoughtful discussion, the Council unanimously agreed to establish a Pastoral Search Committee and selected a church member to possibly lead the Committee. Mike will contact the church member to discuss whether that person has an interest and the opportunity to serve as Chairperson of St. Paul's Pastoral Search Committee.

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

EASTER PLANT ORDER 2024

Plant	Price	Quantity	Sub-Total
Easter Lily	\$15		
Large Easter Lily	\$60		
Tulip	\$15		
Kalanchoe	\$18		
Mum	\$18		
Hydrangea	\$45		
Begonia	\$18		
Bulb Garden	\$30		
Cyclamen	\$18		

All plants come in pot covers. Payment is due upon ordering, and a check is preferred. A 3.5% fee will be added for credit card transactions. Please order by March 18th to receive delivery by Easter.

Thank you for choosing Delano Floral and Gifts!

The Easter flowers/plants order form sheets are available in the sanctuary (on the table). If you would like to place an order, simply fill out the form and attach it to the clip board. Don't forget to put your name on top of the form. The deadline is March 18. The flowers/plants will be picked up from Delano Floral and placed by the alter for the Easter service. After the service, grab your goods and take them home to enjoy!

Pastor Bridget will handle ordering the Palms which will be available to take with you before the service.



Photo: iStockphoto.com

Upcoming Special Mission Offerings

Through your support of the Special Mission Offerings, the United Church of Christ reaches out and impacts the lives of our neighbors, near and far!



One Great Hour of Sharing – March 10, 2024

The United Church of Christ responds to humanitarian and development needs in the world. Gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing® carries God's message of love and hope to people in crisis. Through our work with local churches, conferences, international partners and organizations, One Great Hour of Sharing provides sources of clean water, food, education, health care, small business micro-credit loans, advocacy, resettlement for refugees and displaced persons, emergency relief and rehabilitation as well as disaster preparedness and response.

Strengthen the Church – May 19, 2024

The Strengthen the Church (STC) Offering reflects the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ to cooperatively build up the UCC. Conferences and the national setting equally share the gifts given by members and friends through their local congregations. The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations. By your generosity to this offering, you build up the Body of Christ.

Neighbors in Need – October 6, 2024

Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants.

Christmas Fund – December 15, 2024

The Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund is a Special Mission Offering that congregations have been supporting for over 100 years. The offering is administered through the United Church Board for Ministerial Assistance, the charitable arm of the Pension Boards. Funds provide direct financial support to those who serve the church and are facing financial difficulties.



Become a 5-for-5 Congregation

5-for-5 congregations give to OCWM Basic Support and each of the Special Mission Offerings. 5-for-5 congregations receive special recognition for their leadership.

Sharing Good News

*St. Paul's United Church of Christ
201 Buffalo Street
P.O. Box 187
Delano, MN 55328*

February 2024



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