

March 2024

Issue 115

Volume 2

Sharing Good News

St. Paul's UCC Delano, Minnesota



**\*Birthdays\***

- 03/04 John Kappe**
- 03/04 Jim Holm**
- 03/06 Dianna Meyer**
- 03/13 Wayne Keplinger**
- 03/15 Ann Robinson**
- 03/22 Neil Carter**
- 03/28 Laurence Rieder**
- 03/29 Gretchen Stewart**



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

- 03/03 Communion**
- 03/10 Special Meeting (following worship; see page 3)**
- 03/10 Council Meeting (following fellowship)**
- 03/10 Daylight Savings**
- 03/17 Bridget's Retirement Party (see page 4)**



- 03/29 Good Friday (no service)**
- 03/31 Easter**

**\*Fellowship Hosts\***

- 03/03 Holm**
- 03/10 Hagerty**
- 03/17 Hagerty**
- 03/24 Open**
- 03/31 Open**

**\*Lenten Soup Supper Hosts\* (5:00 pm)**

- 03/05 Hagerty**
- 03/12 Becker**
- 03/19 Open**
- 03/26 Open**

**St. Paul's United Church of Christ**  
**Minutes of 2023 Annual Meeting**  
**February 18, 2024**

President Michael Hagerty called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

An **Opening Prayer** by Michael H. was followed by a physical count of the members present. Twenty-one (21) members in attendance constituted a quorum.

The printed **Agenda** was approved by vote with no additions or deletions.

**Minutes** from last year's meeting on 2/19/2023 were approved by motions to accept and voice vote.

Treasurer James Holm presented the **Financial Report**. The Budget of 2023 was met with expenses lower than income by \$2,731.66. It was a growth year for the Green Wealth Mgt. Investment Fund, the number of members/offerings, and the amount we were able to give to Missions. Many "Thanks" were given to administrative assistant Geralyn Lucht and everyone for their generosity of time, talents & donations. The 2024 Budget was presented with very similar numbers to 2023. Acknowledgement was made that there are unknowns because of the retirement of Pastor Bridget, and that no organist has been hired yet. The 2024 Budget was approved by vote as written.

**Pastor's Report:** Bridget spoke of the difficulty she has been experiencing due to memory and driving challenges. She has made the formal announcement of her retirement from St. Paul's UCC effective following Easter Sunday, March 31, 2024. Bridget also highlighted some items from her written report.

Council member Judy Crosby presented both the **Cemetery & Worship Committee Reports**. In the Cemetery report she highlighted the changes approved last year that increased the cost of purchasing a plot to \$500.00 and other guidelines for headstones, markers, etc. She is continuing her work to update the cemetery map. A discussion about the amount of money designated for Perpetual Care took place, and how that amount could increase in value. No decision was made other than further study and discussion. The Worship Committee of Deanna B., Gretchen S., Lani B-Worley, Judy C., and Pastor Bridget only met once so far and has a good start. Work will continue. Judy also spoke about the formation of a calling tree list to keep members informed.

The **5 Year Plan Report** was reviewed by Mike Hagerty. A thorough recap of all that has been accomplished in the past year was made. The list included repairs to the cement steps on the south side entrances, raising the cement entry on the north side, remodeling the restrooms, additional shelving and cataloguing for the library, new lighting in the Fellowship Hall, production of Welcome Cards for pews, continued progress on our website and social media, and events held at our church to promote social justice actions and education. 2023 was a very active and successful year for the church, but there is much more to work on.

**Election of Council Members:** Mike Hagerty & Kevin Handt were unanimously elected for 2-year terms. Due to the sudden resignation of Laura Johnson, there was still a 1-yr term open. The only person willing to volunteer for the 5<sup>th</sup> council seat was Meg Conrard who is not a member of St. Paul's, but is a member of another UCC. A discussion was held about the legality of Meg becoming a member here while continuing her other church membership. A motion was made by Hal Becker to accept her appointment to the council, pending a positive outcome and she becomes a member here. The motion passed.

**Delegates to the MN Conference Annual Meeting:** A motion was made, seconded, and passed to authorize the Church Council to appoint 2 delegates for the meeting in June.

**Motion to Adjourn** was made, seconded, and passed at 10:51 am.

\*Copies of reports, agendas, financial documents, and minutes referred to were made available to all members.

## Chile Cultural Responsive Dinner on February 17, 2024



Pictured is our Chile presenter Hugo Saavendra along with his family Monica and Filipe. Also pictured is Chloe Moore who assisted in the presentation and she is Lani Brown-Worley's granddaughter.

### Special Meeting March 10, 2024

We will be holding a special meeting after the church service on Sunday, March 10, 2024 for the purpose of voting on two issues:

- 1) a vote to approve an amendment to Article 5 Membership of the Constitution and By-Laws of St. Paul's UCC.
  - 2) a vote to authorize an expenditure greater than \$1,000.
- More information has been provided to the voting members by mail/email.

### Financial Review February 1-29, 2024

Income (offerings): \$10,438  
Total Expenses: \$ 5,087  
Total Income/Loss: \$ 5,351



## St. Paul's UCC Church Says Goodbye to Pastor

On Easter Sunday, March 31st the members of St. Paul's UCC Church in Delano will say farewell to their beloved Pastor, Bridget Haefner. After serving the congregation for over ten years, Pastor Bridget has decided to retire.

On St. Patrick's Day, Sunday, March 17th the congregation will hold a goodbye celebration after the church service at 10:15 a.m. Family and friends of Pastor Bridget are invited to attend.

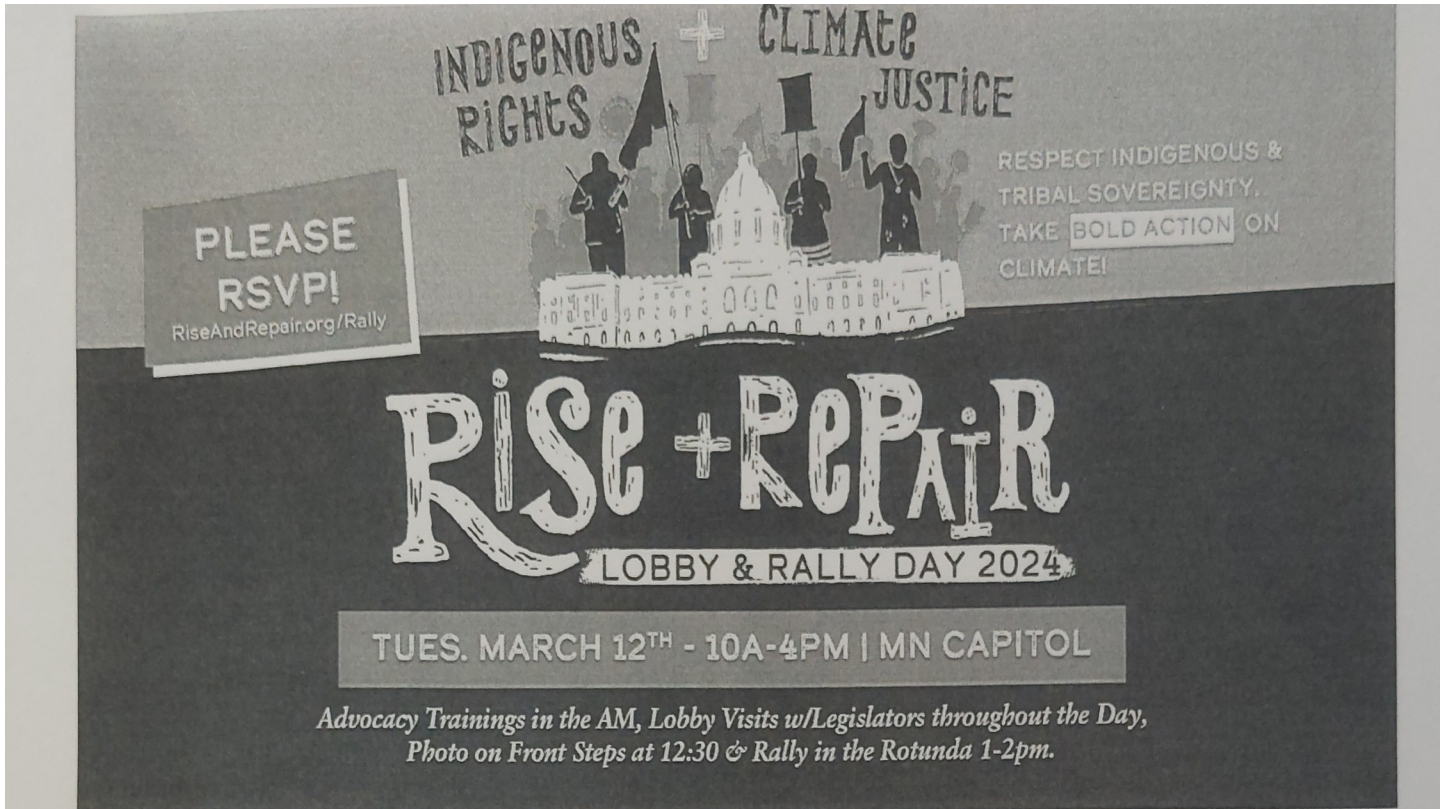
Over the years Pastor Bridget has championed many social justice issues and led the way to better understanding of the struggles of minorities and the hardships facing families in our community. Working with Dave Rieder she organized annual Climate Awareness events with tree planting and environmental protection practices. When George Floyd was murdered and when Russia invaded Ukraine, she organized a peace garden, the installation of a memorial bench, and a speaker from Ukraine.

Pastor Bridget invited author James Loewen from Bethesda, Maryland to come to Delano and speak about his book entitled *Lies My Teacher Told Me: Everything Your American History Textbook Got Wrong*. Loewen also spoke to the student body at Delano High School as well as the History Museum in St. Paul. Working with Lani Brown-Worley, she held Culturally Responsive Dinners where different countries were celebrated every other month to educate people about the struggles of immigrants to our country.

With James Woiwor, a church member born in Liberia, Africa, and an agency called Teamwork Africa, Pastor Bridget led the way to fund raise enough money to build two wells in Liberia as well as sending school supplies and clothing to help to an orphanage there.

Pastor Bridget has a gift of relating the loving message of Jesus to the events occurring in our world. Each week Pastor Bridget's sermon enlightened the congregation on a pathway to understand these struggles.

Pastor Bridget studied at United Theological Seminary in the Twin Cities, earned a Juris Doctorate from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, and studied Zoology at Michigan State University. Pastor Bridget and her husband, Steve McCurry, have five children and four great grandchildren. Pastor Bridget lives in Prior Lake with her daughter, Katherine, and her husband Josh and their son Ezra. Pastor Bridget is looking forward to spending time with her grandchildren and a new baby arriving later this year.



James —

We know that you, as a Community Connector, care deeply about Indigenous and tribal sovereignty and are committed to a more a just and sustainable future. We also know that you know a bunch of other folks who care passionately about this work, too.

Years of organizing has shown us that people are much more likely to take action if someone they know invites them, which is why we need your help!

**Will you help us to get the biggest turnout we can to our March 12 Rise & Repair Rally & Lobby Day by sharing with your networks, communities, and/or congregations?**

To make this easy, we put together some sample emails and social media posts you can use to invite your friends and loved ones. You can find it here.

Thank you so much for your commitment to our common work to rise and repair. Please reach out if you have any questions!

Thanks,

Buff Grace  
Director of Faith Networks  
Minnesota Interfaith Power & Light

# Sharing Good News

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

**March 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](mailto:delanoucc@gmail.com)