

May 2024

Issue 117

Volume 2

Sharing Good News

St. Paul's UCC Delano, Minnesota



**\*Birthdays\***

- 05/13 Deanna Becker
- 05/15 Darrell DeMaris
- 05/20 Vicki Hagerty
- 05/21 Ron Gripentrog
- 05/21 Butch Meyer
- 05/25 Sue DeMaris



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

- 05/02 Nat'l Day of Prayer
- 05/05 Communion
- 05/12 Mother's Day
- 05/19 Council Meeting (following fellowship)
- 05/26 Peace Garden Event (see page 4)
- 05/27 Memorial Day



**\*Fellowship Hosts\***

- 05/05 Hussing/McDonald
- 05/12 Hagerty
- 05/19 Open
- 05/26 Pot Luck



**St. Paul UCC Council Meeting Minutes**  
**April 21, 2024**  
**10:31am-11:52am**

Present: Mike H., Jim H., Dave R., Kevin H., Meg C. & Gretchen S.

Mike opened with a prayer.  
 Minutes from March 10, 2024 meeting were approved M-Jim/S-Dave

**Open Forum** Church member Gretchen wanted to discuss the possibility of finding 3-4 volunteers from the congregation to help her arrange and distribute flowers once a week to a few local nursing homes that she currently visits.

Gretchen, Shawne and Lani & Sam will be attending the National UCC Conference in Minneapolis in June.

**Financials** Jim presented the financial statements:

Checking is at \$24,185. Income Mar.10-Apr.19 \$4,191; Expenses \$11,707; Net Income (\$7,516); Green Wealth ending Mar. 31,2024 \$436,655.

Larry Olsen, who manages the Green Wealth Fund, will be meeting with us next month for an annual review.

There will be a new line item in the Financial Report called, "Pulpit Supply" to address guest preachers during our transition time without Bridget. There was also a one time line item to address the cost of food (\$813.66) for Bridget's retirement party on March 17, 2024.

Property Insurance will be due in June with a 20-30% increase. Our liability coverage is adequate for outside groups using the facility and Xcel Energy will be sending a refund for a significant overage charged last Fall.

**Old Business** The Bathroom door needs to be varnished and a door knob converted to a lever for easier accessibility. Team Africa is moving forward with the well drilling. There was a small hiccup that will need repair that will be paid for out of the current money available. The well in James W.'s village was not able to be installed because of too much rock for hand digging.

We are no longer working with UCCMN to find us a new pastor. We have 2, possibly 3 interviewees to choose from after which time the search Committee will make their recommendation for our Interim Pastor.

Dave spoke again about the possibility of using the Fellowship Hall in the event that the Rieder outdoor concerts experienced inclement weather. He is willing to construct a moveable stage that the church could use, for above purpose and possibly open up the venue for weddings and/or other functions that the church might offer. Kevin offered to look into what we might need to do to be a wedding venue.

**New Business** Yearbook UCC is a publication of ALL UCC churches. We have not submitted our information for a number of years, but we will so that we can be listed in the 2026 issue.

Dave will begin replacing the roof in the next couple of weeks. A final check from the insurance company will be issued at the time of completion. Any excess money will be used to make other repairs throughout the church as needed.

Our ByLaws will be reviewed by Mike and Meg and brought to Council/Congregation for any updates.

Mike proposed having an individual named Al come and speak as either a sermon or lecture later in the summer, to further our support for the LGBTQI+ community. Their focus would be on sexual identity and public understanding around that topic.

Watertown hosts a Christmas event inviting senior citizens to come enjoy a meal and music put on by the high school as wait staff and musicians. Mike would like to examine that as a possible event we could offer.

Our Peace Garden is still a work in progress. What Cultural events and/or causes could we host in our outdoor space?

**Additions** Lani wanted to let us know that our Cultural Dinners will resume soon and Meg will go forward with the idea of a Craft Show held at the church in the Fall

**Adjourn:** M-Jim/S-Kevin @ 11:52am

**Financial Review for April 1–30, 2024**

Income/Offerings: \$2,843

Expenses: \$2,422

Net Income: \$ 421



## Strengthen the Church: Pentecost Sunday is May 19

Every year around Pentecost Sunday, the congregations of the Minnesota Conference UCC are invited to contribute to the [Strengthen the Church](#) offering, an important expression of the generosity of people across the UCC. Gifts will be shared equally by the Conference and the national setting to support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovations in UCC congregations.



Pastor Bridget's last day preaching on Easter Sunday along with the Attendees

## 4 GOOD REASONS FOR READING



- 1. Mental Stimulation:** Reading exercises the brain, improving cognitive function, and preventing cognitive decline as we age. It stimulates the mind, enhances vocabulary, and sharpens critical thinking skills.
- 2. Stress Reduction:** Engaging in a good book can provide an escape from daily stresses, promoting relaxation and reducing anxiety. It offers a mental break and allows readers to immerse themselves in different worlds and perspectives.
- 3. Knowledge and Empathy:** Reading exposes us to new ideas, cultures, and experiences, broadening our understanding of the world and fostering empathy. It encourages lifelong learning and personal growth, enriching our lives in countless ways.
- 4. We have a Fabulous Library right here at Church:** Checking out books from our church library is convenient and hassle-free because you're right here every Sunday. You can keep the book for as long as you need it, and the self-checkout and check-in process is simple and easy to use.

## May Peace Garden Event— Sunday, May 26

For the last few years, we have held a memorial event on a Sunday in late May after our church service, with the main purpose being to pray for peace and justice in many areas of the world. This event started because of the murder of George Floyd here in Minneapolis but was expanded when the invasion of Ukraine by Russia took place. Now we have an active war in Israel, along with other Mid-East countries having conflicts and other places too many to name. With this in mind the Church Council thought it would be right to congregate once again this May around our Peace Garden site and have a short memorial time of recognition and prayer. We have chosen Sunday May 26 as the date, and we will gather outside immediately after the regular service, weather permitting. A potluck meal in the Fellowship Hall will take place after our prayers have been delivered. More details will be announced during the church services in May.

### Pictures from past Peace Garden Events



## Minnesota Conference

United Church of Christ

Attention Minnesota Conference UCC Congregations *and* Authorized Ministers:

We are so excited to welcome you to this year's Annual Meeting where we will gather for a few days focused on **Sacred Re-Imagining**. This will be a hybrid meeting, but we hope you will choose to join us in person at St. Benedict's College June 7<sup>th</sup> and June 8<sup>th</sup>. There will be a forum to kick off the theme and the week on Zoom on Sunday, June 2. All the hearings for the budget, compensation guidelines, and resolutions will be available via Zoom on Monday – Wednesday (June 3-5) in the evenings. On Thursday, June 6<sup>th</sup>, there will be Power & Boundary Training and an Anti-Racism workshop for clergy that need to meet their training requirements. These two options will have a separate signup that will be available soon. There will also be a Jam Session for anyone that wants to join in on Thursday evening. Please bring your instrument. If you have questions about Thursday's events, please contact Rev. Kelly Gallagher ([kellyg@uccmn.org](mailto:kellyg@uccmn.org)). The plenary sessions that take place on Friday and Saturday will be offered on Zoom as well as in person, but voting will only be available in person. There will be workshops offered on both Friday, June 7<sup>th</sup> and Saturday June 8<sup>th</sup> during the in-person meeting. They will not be available online.

**Note:** St. Paul's UCC Council has approved 2 voting delegates to attend: Sam McCurry and Lani Brown-Worley. If you wish to attend, please speak to Jim Holm or Mike Hagerty for details.

## Ecosense

### Adopt-A-Drain

When it rains, stormwater carries grass clippings, leaves, cigarette butts, pesticides, fertilizers, antifreeze, paint, gasoline, motor oil, and animal waste directly into Minnesota lakes, creeks, and the Mississippi River. Minnesota residents and businesses can adopt storm drains in their neighborhood.

The adoption process is easy and quick, and you will be able to adopt or un-adopt storm drains instantly.

### Getting started

Visit the website to create a user profile and password: <https://MN.Adopt-A-Drain.org/>

Start by clicking on either the big orange "Adopt a Drain" button, or the "Sign up" button at the upper right, or you can scroll down to the map farther down the page and pick a storm drain that way. After you select a drain, you will be prompted to give the drain a name and then fill out your contact information. Your public name is what other adopters will see. You can add a profile picture and choose whether you want to be contacted by the City of Minneapolis, as well as your local watershed organization.

You can also report how much material you collected and find tips on keeping your storm drains clean while staying safe at the same time. Once set up, take a moment to check out everything that the site has to offer.

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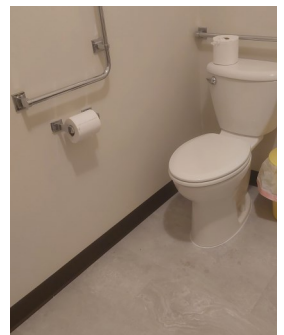
### CONSTRUCTION ZONE!

You may have noticed that Dave Rieder has been busy doing some painting and remodeling projects lately. Here's a quick update:

The bathroom projects are basically finished. The women's bathroom is now handicapped accessible with a new 36-inch door, partition removed and will be available to both men and women. Both restrooms have assist bars added and new paint. There is new tile flooring down the hall and in both rooms. I believe the only thing left is one new lever-style door handle.

Our insurance company is paying to replace the church roof damaged in last summer's hailstorm. If you've been to church you might have seen the material that Dave has had delivered here, and his construction company will perform the work. Pray for some warm, dry weather so that the job can be started soon and completed quickly. Be careful around any materials, especially if you are here when any work is being done.

Please say "Thanks Dave" for all the work he is doing here. Outstanding!



# Sharing Good News

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**May 2024**



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All are welcome at our in-person services, Sundays at 9:15 AM . Sunday sermons are available via our YouTube channel on our website.

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