

May 2025

Issue 129

Volume 2

Sharing Good News

St. Paul's UCC Delano, Minnesota



MEMORIAL DAY
THANK YOU TO THE REAL SUPER HEROES.

Birthdays

05/13 Deanna Becker

05/15 Darrell DeMaris

05/20 Vicki Hagerty

05/21 Ron Gripentrog

05/24 Sue DeMaris



Dates to be Noted

05/04 Communion

05/11 Mother' Day

05/17 Armed Forces Day

**05/18 Council Meeting
(following fellowship)**

05/26 Memorial Day



Fellowship Hosts

05/04 Hussing/McDonald

05/11 Brazelton

05/18 Specht

05/25 Hagerty



Pastor's Note: May 2025

"You shall love your neighbor as yourself."



With May comes Mother's Day; Happy Mother's Day to all of you who *are* mothers or who *had* mothers (I trust that covers everyone). When I taught confirmation and got to the commandment to "Honor your father and your mother . . .", I asked the class, "How many of you came into this world on your own?" The answer is of course obvious, but the implication isn't always grasped: *we are all inherently dependent on others!*

We are all dependent on others, not only for birth and growing up, but also for education, friendship, work, and citizenship. We are part of a web of relationships which support us and through which we support others. Who we are is shaped by others and we influence who others are and become. In the words of the poet, John Donne (1572-1631), "No man is an island, entire of itself. Each is a piece of the continent, a part of the main . . ."

Given the American cultural belief in 'rugged individualism', we often lose track of this simple truth. This doesn't mean we have to be 'controlled' by others, but we are accountable to them. It doesn't mean we have to 'agree' with others, but it does mean we have to show respect for them.

It does not mean we have to take on the feelings of others, but it does mean we have to exercise enough empathy to understand where they are coming from as if we were in their situation. Some religious conservatives have even argued that empathy can be "sinful" if we extend it to groups of people with which we have no personal connection; "the poor" or "immigrants". This view involves a fundamental misunderstanding of what empathy is.

In a time when people are cutting off friends and relatives because of their political positions, attacking others for having a different religion, or seeing people from other countries or races as threats, we need to be intentional about remembering our human connectedness.

This includes immigrants, even ones who enter our country illegally. It doesn't mean we have to let people enter illegally, but it does mean we have to treat them as human beings with whom we have a basic human connection. This is manifestly *not* happening today. ICE has lost even basic human decency in its treatment of immigrants, seizing people simply for the color of their skin or heritage!

If we truly honor Motherhood, we cannot treat immigrants as sub-human. Whatever we think about this issue, whatever we think needs to be done about illegal immigration, we must not lose track of the basic truth that we are all connected as human beings. If we lose track of this truth, we lose our humanness.

God's Peace, Pastor Kent

Announcements
Red Cards for Immigrants

Delano diversity Task Force is considering contacting local churches about distributing "Red Cards" to legal immigrants who fear extra-judicial arrest and deportation by ICE. Please see Chris Brazelton for more information.

Health Minnesota Stories/Dakota Sacred Sites Open Tour

The Minnesota Council of Churches is sponsoring a series of tours of Dakota sacred sites, led by Jim Bear Jacobs and Rev. Kelly Sherman Conroy. The tours are roughly four hours long and will be held on May 3rd, June 1st and October 18th. See MCC website for more information.

Money, Lies and God

Inside the movement to destroy "American Democracy" author Katherine Stewart explores how misinformation and religious nationalism threaten democracy. Discussion & books signing to follow taking place on May 3rd, 3-5pm at Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church, 511 Groveland Avenue in Minneapolis.

Seder Dinner for Easter Week

On Maundy Thursday, April 17, St. Paul's hosted a cultural dinner with a Passover Seder in the Jewish tradition. Pastor Kent led the Seder that had some of the same rituals as Jesus and his disciples experienced at the Last Supper. Pastor Kent incorporated our Communion service with Matzah (unleavened bread) and grape juice.

Participants brought assorted dishes to share from our Seder Recipe Book. Our dinner included lamb au jus, pot roast, brisket, lemon potatoes, roasted chicken, and candied carrots. Everyone pitched in to set up the dinner with Shayla's eye for beauty, the white linen tablecloths were set with assorted candles and little sipping glasses for the grape juice.

The Pastor and Lani arranged the Seder plate with the six foods representing the plight of the Jews escaping from Egypt and their slave years. As the pastor said the prayers, we toasted with four glasses of juice. A seder isn't complete without songs, so Deanna fired up the organ in the Fellowship Hall and played the first hymn and ran up to the church balcony and cranked the volume up for the last hymn. In turn participants ate matzah sandwiches with charoset and horseradish and experienced many other Jewish traditions.

Additional Cultural Responsive Dinners will be scheduled in the coming months.



Seder Dinner Pics Continued



St Paul's UCC Council Minutes April 13, 2025 10:30 a.m.

In Attendance: Lani Brown-Worley, Jim Holm, Judy Crosby, Mike Hagerty, Gretchen Stewart and Pastor Kent Meyer

Mike called to order 10:21, and Pastor offered prayer.

Judy moved to approved minutes, Jim second, passed for March 16, 2025 with changes.

Jim reviewed Financial Statement. Some maintenance charges will be coming and the organ charges have yet to come. Larry Olson will be coming to review our accounts on May 18. We received our property insurance assessment for next year; \$ 3,500 was budgeted and that will cover the increase. This is to be paid in June. Motion to approve Judy with second Lani. Passed. (see Jim's Financial Report for more details)

Pastor's Report – Ash Wed. service cancelled due to bad weather. We may want a “Small Church Collective” speaker to meet with Council. Meeting set for Tues. May 6 at 1:00 to discuss new model of sharing a pastor between small churches. The Search Committee and Council members are invited to attend and learn about it.

We need a sub for the Pastor on June 15 Trinity Sunday (the whole week), but we may have members do the service to increase member involvement and save money. Lani will talk with Meg and others. (see Pastor's report for more details)

Old Business: Action Plan reviewed. Discussed the service each member accepted responsibility for the year.

New Business

- a. Easter Service Ads – Our black and white ad was in the newspaper for Friday, April 11. We expect our colored ad will be in next Friday's newspaper, April 18.
- b. 5-Year Plan - June 13/14 UCC Conference at St. Benedict, we can send two.
- c. In previous years, we have held a Social Justice Memorial in May. We want to do another one in our Peace Garden. We scheduled it for June 1. Worship Committee will meet to plan the service.
- d. Refugee Support – Lani will update us on needs of our immigrant friends.
- e. Cultural Dinners - Our Cultural dinner for April is our Jewish Seder service on Maundy Thursday, Apr. 17, and other dinners will follow in future months.
- f. We will continue our support for the Estates of Delano.

Next Council Meeting is May 18.

Motion to adjourn Judy, second Jim. 11:09

Respectfully submitted by Lani Brown-Worley

Clean up Month in May

As a Church Council member, I have volunteered to organize some church cleaning activities. I would like to invite anyone who is able to donate some time and energy during the month of May to help clean areas that need attention inside & outside of the church building.

Dave Rieder does a lot of the regular maintenance and cleaning on his own volition. It is my intention to give him some assistance during the month of May by having a few of us come in and help with simple cleaning tasks like washing windows, removing cobwebs and bugs, etc. My thought is to schedule a couple hours each Wednesday or Thursday during May and coordinate with Dave on things that need more attention. This could include some outside cleanup like we have done in the past at the cemetery and the church gardens.

If you have any questions or would like to help, please contact me at 763-221-2912 (or see me in church) and we can coordinate with Dave to have the church open. Any particular cleaning ideas are welcome.

Thanks in advance.

Jim Holm



CROSSROADS ANIMAL SHELTER & COMMUNITY VETERINARY CLINIC

SPRING ADOPTION AND FUNDRAISING EVENT

**SATURDAY, MAY 3RD 11:00AM-2:00PM
AT BIG BORE BARBECUE CO.**

**SILENT AUCTION AND RAFFLE ITEMS
ADOPTABLE ANIMALS
PUPPY KISSING BOOTH
PET PANTRY DONATION TABLE
FUN GAMES AND PRIZES**

Spring Adoption and Fundraising Event
📅 May 3rd 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Join us on **Saturday, May 3rd from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM** at **Big Bore Barbecue Co.** for a fun-filled day supporting a great cause!

This special event will feature:

- 🐾 Silent Auction and Raffle Items
- 🐾 Adorable Adoptable Animals
- 🐾 A Puppy Kissing Booth (yes, it's as cute as it sounds!)
- 🐾 Pet Pantry Donation Table
- 🐾 Fun Games and Exciting Prizes



April 1-30, 2025

Income/Offerings: \$4,088

Expenses: \$6,764

Net Income Loss: (\$2,676)



Sharing Good News

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201 Buffalo Street
P.O. Box 187
Delano, MN 55328*

May 2025



Church Phone: (763) 972-6689

Pastor Phone: (507)-458-0757

Interim Rev. Kent Meyer's Hours:

Tuesday 11:00 pm—7:00 pm

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

www.delanoucc.org



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