

August 2025

Issue 132

Volume 2

Sharing Good News

St. Paul's UCC Delano, Minnesota



Birthdays

None



Dates to be Noted

- 08/02 Shawne Worley Funeral (see page 4)**
- 08/03 Communion**
- 08/05 National Night Out**
- 08/10 Teamwork Africa Presentation
Sermon by Peggy Halvorsen**
- 08/16 Cultural Responsive Dinner (see page 2)**
- 08/17 Council Meeting (following fellowship)**

Fellowship Hosts

- 08/03 Holm**
- 08/10 Open**
- 08/17 Open**
- 08/24 Brazelton**
- 08/31 Hagerty**



Pastor's Note: August 2025



"Before destruction one's heart is haughty,
but humility goes before honor."

– Proverbs 18:12

I recently had the experience of being called-out by a stranger on a matter of facts – I had missed a crucial point in a recent news story! This is certainly embarrassing! I readily admitted my mistake and thanked the person for filling me in. Yes, pastors are human and make mistakes. I try to be humble when called on it.

I can also think of several occasions when I thought I was being clever and came off sounding ignorant or arrogant. Once in a college class, I used a particular Jewish term, only to be quickly and *sharply* corrected by a Jewish student in the class (one of whom I believe went on to become the first woman to be ordained as a rabbi in Reformed Judaism). I apologized to her later. Another time, a woman was expressing concern about her and her daughter going to a predominantly African American church service. The comment seemed racist to me and I corrected her in what was probably a superior-sounding tone. Later, I realized I had come off sounding like a complete a . . . *I can't use that word in a church publication!* I let my "heart" be "haughty" and promptly tripped myself!

It seems like every time I try to come off sounding superior or like a know-it-all, God sees to it that I get tripped-up! I like to think I've grown more humble in my old age, but I'm sure I'm still susceptible to the temptation.

Humility is something that seems lacking in our public life, both in the political sphere and the religious realm. There is far too much 'absolute certainty' floating around, and far too little recognition of human limitations. It is especially easy to fall into this when we feel passionate about an issue! It can be a difficult balance, standing up firmly for what is right but not casting yourself as superior. Yet I think this is one step we can all take in resolving the current battles besetting our country.

There's a question I sometimes ask myself: "Have you seriously considered the possibility that you might be wrong about something?" I find it a good practice.

God's Peace, Pastor Kent

Pastor Kent's Office Hours for August

Pastor Kent will be in the office on Tuesdays, 11am – 6pm.

Pastor Kent will be briefly out of town August 6th – 8th.



August Cultural Dinner

On Saturday, August 16th St. Paul's will host a Cultural Responsive Dinner celebrating the country and people of **Bangladesh**. Bangladesh is located to the east of India on the Bay of Bengal, and is a South Asian country marked by lush greenery and many waterways. Its Padma (Ganges), Meghna and Jamuna rivers create fertile plains, and travel by boat is common. On the southern coast, the Sundarbans, an enormous mangrove forest shared with Eastern India, is home to the royal Bengal tiger.

Lani and Shawne's and GERALYN and Peter's neighbor, Jerry Costa, has ancestors who came from Bangladesh. Jerry and his family have agreed to come and share stories and information about the country. A fascinating country with a population of 172 million people with land the size of Iowa (U.S. population is 340 million). If our polar ice caps continue to melt along with the Netherlands, Bangladesh will be totally submerged.

A cookbook with recipes for the foods of Bangladesh will be mailed at the end of July. Plan to invite a friend and join the dinner celebration.

Announcements

Teamwork Africa Sunday: August 10th

We will be celebrating the efforts of Teamwork Africa to bring education and hope to people in Liberia. Peggy Halversen, co-founder of Teamwork Africa, will be speaking in the sermon time and will give a presentation following worship.

Church Clean-Up Is Continues

Thank you to everyone who took on a cleaning project around our church!

There are still projects to do. There is a sign-up list on the railing of the ramp.

Basic Rules: If it looks dirty, tell us! If you can do it, go ahead!

Love Inc. News

Sponsor a Back Pack for Back to School Bash

Love Inc. is teaming up with West Pointe Church to provide free school supplies, food, and fun for K-12 students from families in need. Donate \$ 50 or any amount toward this Gap ministry. For more information, go to bit.ly/schoolbash23.

Volunteers Needed for the Howard Lake Thrift Store for August.

For more information, call 763-999-7087 or sign up at bit.ly/loveincvolunteer.

Golf for Love, Sept. 15th

Golf for Love is a fundraising event at Albion Golf Course. Format is 4-person Scramble. Check-in starts 10am. Event details, team tickets, and sponsorship packages available at bit.ly/golfforlove25.

Gift A Meal At Our Fresh Start Program

Serving a meal at our Fresh Start Program is a simple, impactful way to show the love of Christ and gives the opportunity to build community! We have multiple openings available for September-December. Give a financial gift to support or sign up to serve a meal at bit.ly/fsmeals23.

Notes from the Search Committee

The search committee is continuing to follow the UCC guidelines for our pastoral search. Persons interested in our settled pastor position submit their profiles to the Minnesota Conference of the UCC and after review by the Conference, the profiles are sent to us. In addition to profiles and candidates who are authorized to complete a UCC Ministerial Profile, the Conference may also at its discretion pass along ministerial profiles from the Presbyterian Church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA), the Reformed Church in America, Disciples of Christ, and the United Church of Canada. These ecumenical opportunities for interested persons are possible because of established denominational agreements.

The Search Committee is continuing its work in preparation for the process of reading and reflecting on the ministerial profiles we will be receiving. We have established our interview process, created the interview questions and have had a practice ZOOM meeting. To date, we have received only a few pastoral profiles and have interviewed one candidate for the settled pastor position. Our Conference Minister for Congregations in Transition, Cindy Mueller, has indicated to us that the process of calling a pastor is typically taking longer than it has in the past.

We are blessed to have a wonderful church community. We pray for God's guidance in our continuing search for a settled pastor.

We would like to thank the congregation for completing the WELCOMING DIVERSITY INVENTORY in June. We garnered some useful information from your thoughts and ideas for the work of our church. It is important that we continue to ask if our congregation is truly welcome to all people.

The Search Committee

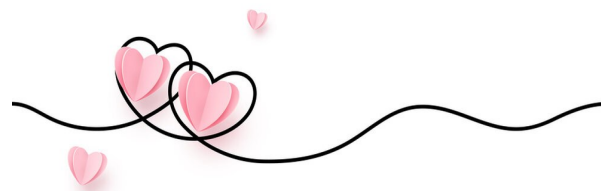
Deanna, Mike, Shala, Judy, Shelly and Laura.

Shawn Worley Obituary

Shawne Worley, 75, a fearless explorer and connoisseur of life's grand adventures, peacefully transitioned to his next spiritual realm on July 19, 2025 after a two-year wrestle with liver cancer. Born October 2, 1949 in Shakopee, he spent much of his life in Chaska and Delano. From 1968 to 1972 he served in the Marines with a 13 month stay in Vietnam. When he returned, he signed on with Edina's Sico Manufacturing Company where he worked for 38 years creating lunchroom tables, band/choir risers, and staging for schools and event centers. He boasted that they produced the Cadillacs in the industry, and wherever he traveled he would proudly point them out. When he retired, he started the weekly movie club at the Delano Senior Center. His slogan was "Come for the popcorn, stay for the movie!" because each week he made the old-fashioned stove top popcorn with real butter. He purchased all the movies he showed and left behind a collection of about 1000 movies. He was an active DFL supporter, serving as Senate District 29's Outreach and Inclusion Officer for eight years. He was proud to have been voted to be a delegate to the state convention in Rochester the year Governor Walz ran for office. Shawne also served on the Steering Committee for Wright County Indivisible starting in 2016. Shawne was a Buddhist and was elated to originally find and then attend St. Paul's UCC Church in Delano because he saw that congregation moving on the same spiritual path of love, social justice, and acceptance of all people. The congregation was proud to have a Buddhist join their family and enjoyed learning about the religion. His great joy was to reconnect with his prom date from 1967, Lani Brown, after both lost their spouses in 2006. They were married in 2009 and together starting in 2014 they had the honor of doing full-time daycare for Baby Pria, Traci (Lani's only child) and Ryan Moore's fourth child. Shawne had never raised a child, and he flourished learning to be a grandpa to McKenna, Kiera, and Chloe Moore too. He attended preschool with Pria and in the pre-K sat outside the classroom door when she was anxious about being left there. He was an expert on Peppa Pig, My Little Pony, Doc McStuffins, Barbie, and American Girl dolls because he shopped for them, watch cartoons with Pria, and learned the storylines so he knew what to say when they played-acted scenes. At 58 Shawne learned that he had a son, Cory Johnson (Alison), with a granddaughter, Morgan. They live in Thief River Falls. Shawne also loved traveling around the country, but his favorite places were in Canada especially Nova Scotia. A celebration of Shawne's life will be held on Saturday, August 2 at 11:00 (visitation at 9:00) at St. Paul's UCC Church in Delano. A Buddhist who lives to be 75 years old merits red flowers symbolizing his long life.



Shawne and Lani Worley at
Christmas Eve Service 2024



Financial Report for July 1–31, 2025

Income/Offerings: \$2,931

Expenses: \$4,880

Net Income/Loss: (\$1,949)



Pride Event in Monticello—July 26, 2025

By Pria Moore and Alice Hanson

For the first time on July 26 St. Paul's UCC Church joined about 50 other booths at Ellison Park in Monticello to celebrate and support the LGBTQ+ community. The booth provided things like cookies, wristbands/bracelets, pins, and water. Many members of the church came to work at our booth, and a team of young people helped set up and take down the tent, table, and chairs. Other booths included selling things like crystals, crochet animals, hair tinsel; some had free games like Plinko, Ring Toss, and Spinning the Wheel for prizes. Many booths gave away free things like stickers, LGBTQ+ slogan pins, fans, candy, and more! At some booths there were a variety of crafting projects, including weaving, coloring sheets, and bracelet making! Many local churches had booths as well as small business and political groups. Despite the 90-degree weather, we were very proud to take part in this event!

By Karen Deitering

The festival for the LGBTQ A1+ community was attended by families and individuals from all around the state. The individuals attending expressed that they were very grateful to have a safe place to get together and express their individuality.

The festival was colorful, relaxing and fun. Small groups of people wandered among the vendors, talked to small groups one on one on telling vendors what life has been like for them and grateful to talk to people who understood. Many people and families came up and thanked the vendors for just being there in support of the community.

Our church benefited by the event, just by all volunteering our time, making new friendships among the volunteers and forming new contacts with people in our communities. We are excited that the Wright county community knows that we are promoting friendship, acceptance, spiritual guidance and love for All members of our community.



A Big Thanks to:

Karen Deitering for making our first entry a successful one.

Lani Worley who helped provide young people to help support our event.



Sharing Good News

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

August 2025



Church Phone: (763) 972-6689

Pastor Phone: (507)-458-0757

Interim Rev. Kent Meyer's Hours:

Tuesday 11:00 am—6:00 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



Email: delanoucc@gmail.com
