

September 2025

Issue 133

Volume 2

Sharing Good News

St. Paul's UCC Delano, Minnesota



Birthdays

09/01 Jane Larson

09/01 Charlie Leck

09/02 Anne Leck

09/09 Laura McDonald

09/14 Hal Becker

09/20 Gail Uecker



Dates to be Noted

09/01 Labor Day

09/07 Communion

09/21 International Peace Day



Fellowship Hosts

09/07 Holm

09/14 Stewart

09/21 Open

09/28 Open



Pastor's Note: September 2025



“Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young fall exhausted,
but those who wait upon the Lord will renew their strength . . .”

– Isaiah 40:30

September is both a time of memories and of hope. Memories of school start stirring, both of our own schooling and of children in families. Having been “in school”, one way or another, for 29 years, September always make me feel like I should be going somewhere! Some school memories are warm, some are painful; it is inevitably a mixed-bag. But as each new generation works its way through the education process, there also stirs of a hope for something better from the next generation.

Yet our thoughts about the next generation are often a mixed bag too! As often as we look to them for hope, we also shake our heads and wonder what more can go wrong. This is nothing new. I recently ran across some quotations about “the next generation” in the online source, “BuzzFeed”:

“... it’s the first generation in American history to live so well and complain so bitterly about it.”

– Washington Post, 1993.

“Many (young people) were so pampered nowadays that they have forgotten there was such a thing as walking.”

– Falkirk Herald, 1951.

“... an attitude on the part of young folk which is best described as grossly thoughtless, rude, and utterly selfish.” – Hull Daily Mail, 1925.

“The free access which many young people have to romances, novels, and plays has poisoned the mind and corrupted the morals of many a promising youth . . .” – Rev. Enos Hitchcock, 1790.

“Youth were never more sawcie, yea never more savagely saucie . . . the ancient are scorned, the honorable and contemned, the magistrate is not dreaded.” – Thomas Barnes, 1624.

“Modern fashions seem to keep on growing more and more debased . . . The ordinary spoken language has also steadily coarsened.” – “Essays on Idleness”, Yoshida Kenko, c. 1330.

“Our sires’ age was worse than our grandsires’. We, their sons, are more worthless than they;

so in our turn we shall give the world a progeny yet more corrupt.” – Latin poet Horace, c. 20 BC.

“(Young people) are high-minded because they have not yet been humbled by life . . . They think they know everything, and are always quite sure about it.” – from Rhetoric, Aristotle, c. 300 BC.

“... the Lord said in his heart, ‘I will never again curse the ground because of humans, for the inclination of the human heart is evil from youth . . .’ – Genesis 8:21, c. 900 BC

So, before you get too hard on “today’s youth”, remember that each generation of adults from the beginning of time was convinced that the youth coming after them were hopeless (including us). Today’s youth depend on God as much as we do. As God was merciful upon us, in spite of being ‘the worst generation ever’, so God reaches out to youth today with grace, healing, and guidance. We can be part of that reaching out by sharing how God guided us through the pitfalls of life. Or we can at least not make life harder for them!

God’s Peace,

Pastor Kent

Announcements

Stephen Dale McCurry Funeral (Pastor Bridget Haefner's Husband)

The funeral will be held at St. Paul's UCC on Saturday, August 30, at 11:00. A luncheon will be served afterwards

Sermon Series for September: Paul – An Apostle to the World

Pastor Kent will be delivering a 3-part series on the namesake of our congregation, St. Paul. Paul's impact on Christianity has been great, but Paul has also often been maligned and misunderstood. This series will explore the story of Paul and the meaning of Paul's message for today.

Sept. 14 "Paul: From the Law to Grace"

Sept. 21 "Paul: Missionary of God's Love"

Sept. 28 "The Controversial Paul"

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!

We Welcome our New Conference Minister

At a special meeting of the Minnesota Conference on August 12th, delegates from our member church and clergy with standing elected Rev. Dr. Tanya Sadagopan as our new conference minister. Rev. Sadagopan has a variety of experiences, both in parish and in specialized ministries. She has served as adjunct faculty for our own United Theological Seminary. References say she is a person of great integrity and great sensitivity (which she demonstrated during the meeting). Her husband is a practicing Hindu. Her ministry goal:

"My goal is to create communities of empowered courageous people who dare to live their faith out loud. My prayer is for God to use me to broaden the reach of hope, extend the arms of justice, and gather together those who once have been lost, left out, or excluded from centers of faith and power."

She will begin her leadership role here in Minnesota this coming November.

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.

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,

New Sound System Purchase

If you were in church for the August 24th service or attended the Cultural Dinner celebrating Bangladesh on the 16th, you may already know about our new portable Bose sound system. Thanks to a couple of generous donations, the purchase was made for less than \$1000 (less than ½ the total cost) and has already impressed those who have witnessed its capabilities. Also included in the package is a wireless headset microphone that Pastor Kent used while leaving the podium to speak with children at the 24th service and will use on communion Sundays while standing behind the altar. Lani found the mic very handy at the Bangladesh dinner while working the slide show on her laptop at the same time our guest was speaking using a wired microphone. The portability will allow use in the Fellowship Hall, the sanctuary, or even outdoors. The council is excited to find many ways to make use of this new piece of equipment.

Teamwork Africa – What's New?

Exciting things are happening in Liberia through the ministry of Teamwork Africa! Young women are gaining valuable skills and new opportunities through a unique sewing project.

In Liberia, drinking water is sold in small plastic pouches. Once used, the pouches are often tossed on the ground, creating a litter problem. Teamwork Africa is turning this challenge into a blessing. The young women collect the discarded plastic, clean it, and first learn to hand-sew the pieces together. Once they've mastered the basics, they move on to using treadle sewing machines, sewing with beautiful fabrics made right in Liberia.

Peggy Halverson, founder of Teamwork Africa, was seeking an outlet to sell the plastic-lined zipper pouches these women create, giving them the chance to earn income and support themselves.

Our church is excited to support this meaningful project by ordering 100 of these zipper pouches, lovingly handmade by young women in Liberia. They are expected to arrive just in time for Christmas gift-giving.

For a donation of only \$5.00, you can purchase one of these unique and practical pouches. Not only will you be giving a thoughtful gift to someone on your Christmas list, but you'll also be helping empower young women in Liberia to build brighter futures.

This Christmas, give a gift that makes a difference!



Are we truly welcoming to all people?

To answer the above question, we need to consider our stance on racism and diversity. In June of this year, we invited the congregation to participate in a survey considering these issues.

The survey respondents suggested that we are who we say we are. We are a church of extravagant welcome. Better said, we act on who we are. We participate on an ongoing basis in the following.

Book studies/bible studies, cultural dinners, and immigrant support.

The survey indicated we could do a better job of internal communication and community outreach.

We can do so much more. We need your help. Come join us at a council meeting and share your ideas.

Mike Hagerty
Council President

Financial Report for August 1–August 31, 2025

Income/Offerings: \$9,335

Expenses: \$2,812

Net Income/Loss: \$6,523





Sharing Good News

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September 2025



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Pastor Phone: (507)-458-0757

Interim Rev. Kent Meyer's Hours:

Tuesday 11:00 pm—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.

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