

Sharing Good News *St. Paul's UCC Delano MN*

October Calendar

10/05 Communion
10/14 Book Study (see page 4)
10/18 Cultural Dinner (see page 4)
10/19 Council Meeting
10/20-10/26 Pastor on Vacation
10/31 Halloween

Birthday

10/06 Sam McCurry



Fellowship Hosts

10/05 Brazelton
10/12 Conrard
10/19 Hagerty
10/26 Brown-Worley



The neighborhood Church at the corner of Bridge and Buffalo St.



Home of the Extravagant Welcome!

On Sunday, October 5th is our Neighbors-In-Need (NIN) Offering an offering for special ministries in our nation and support of innovative parish ministries.

Advocacy is essential to participating in God's mission in the world!





Pastor's Note: October 2025

"For as in one body we have many members,
and all the members do not have the same function,
so we, though many, are one body in Christ . . ."

— Romans 12:4-5a

In the church, October is a month for remembering our connections with others. There are two events, both happening on the same day: World Communion Sunday and the "Neighbors in Need" special offering.

World Communion Sunday began in 1933, in the depths of the Great Depression. A Presbyterian minister, Rev. Dr. Hugh Thompson Kerr, wanted to promote the biblical understanding of the Church as a single Body of Christ. So, he and his church began to observe the first Sunday in October a day to promote Christian unity and the acceptance of different traditions. He wanted to work to make Ephesians a reality, "One Lord, one faith, one baptism . . ." In 1940, in the shadow of World War II, the Federal Council of Churches (predecessor of the National Council of Churches) adopted the idea. The predecessor denominations of the UCC also adopted it. The denominations which have adopted it are primarily Protestant. Sadly, the Lord's Supper, which was intended to symbolize all Christians being "one Body", still divides the Body of Christ into Protestant, Catholic, and Orthodox. It is thus appropriate today to remember our unity in Christ with fellow Christians around the world.

"Neighbors in Need" (NIN) is a special offering in the UCC to support a variety of ministries in the United States. Until the re-organization of our national body, this offering was used to support the mission activities of "The Board of Homeland Missions". It now funds missions ranging from local justice projects to Native American ministries. About 33 % of this offering goes to the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM), which advocates for Native American congregations and concerns in the UCC. The rest of this special offering goes to support a variety of special ministries and justice projects, including providing grants to local congregations who have come up with special projects to serve their communities and need funding to get started.

So, as Paul writes, "so we, though many, are one body in Christ", take time this month to remember our connections with other Christians – including those *with whom we disagree!* – and recommit our selves to be witnesses, in word and action, to our unity in Christ.

God's Peace,

Pastor Kent

St. Paul's Church Council Minutes – September 21, 2025

1. Mike called meeting to order 10:45. Mike gave the prayer.

2. Dave Rieder – Reported the church is 90% painted. We have some foundation work that needs attention in the future. We also have some rotting molding that needs attention. Inside this winter, the halls and rooms will be painted; some staining is also in order. Steeple is all redone with metal fascia to keep squirrels away. We have 7 trees that need removing. Hal has a lift that we will use for a cost of between \$500-2,000. We can get all that done in one day. We will replant new trees. We got \$40,000 from insurance because of storm damage that we applied to the repairs of the steeple and roof replacement. For the cemetery we need a new sign that Judy requested for the near future. We need new carpet in the future too. For now we will clean it. Jim asked that the new sign be put up.

3. Approval of minutes of Aug. 17. Motion Meg, Jim second. Passed.

4. Jim gave a summary of our finances. Green Wealth Investment is doing very well. We are still down \$12,528 for our net operating income. We will ask people to consider increasing their giving. Motion by Meg to approve Jim's report, second by Mike. Passed.

5. Pastor's Report – Schedule – Pastor needs a week off in Oct. We must decide who will do that service on Sunday, Oct. 26. We agree that Lani will organize our people to cover the church service that Sunday. He did 2 funerals (Shawne Worley and Steve McCurry), 2 visits (John and Mary). He is traveling to Georgia to meet with other clergy members for a camping trip from Oct. 24 -27.

6. Old Business: With our experimenting with locations, the sound system position near the altar seems successful. We will try taking the top section off the stack to see if the pastor's echo diminishes when he speaks into the microphone.

7. New Business: Neighbors in Need – We can apply for grants of money through this UCC avenue. We will take up a special offering to support this fund. We can give money to them as part of our mission funding.

8. Singapore Cultural Dinner Oct. 11 or 18. We chose October 18. Lani will notify our family from Singapore.

9. Year- end Mission Proposals – Jim said we gave \$7,337.00 to our missions in 2024. We could contribute to the Monticello Diversity Group to help local immigrants. Jim recommended we help the Bonde family of Buffalo whose son lost his home to fire recently. Lani shared a proposal for Shawne's younger brother Kevin who lost his legs and fingers from flesh-eating bacteria to cover one of his outstanding medical bills (\$2,500). Proposal for books for Minnesota Excellence in Learning Academy (MELA) school Pre-K-6 grades. We gave \$500 to Team Africa for their little bags which we will recoup the money as we sell them for \$5.00. We listed all possible donation sites.

At our annual meeting we set percentage amounts for the categories for contributions of our mission funds.

20% UCC Programs for total of \$1200. (We also have \$1,400 from previous budget.)

30% local

25% World

25% Metro

Motion to contribute to all groups listed except Delano Senior Center in the amount shown below by Meg, second by Mike. Passed.

St. Paul's Church Council Continued

List of Approved Sources to donate mission funds to:

World: 1) Teamwork Africa will get \$2,000

2) Doctors without Borders \$800

Metro: 1.) Minnesota Excellence in Learning Academy MELA School Maple Grove Books for Positive Behavior Program \$1,000

2.) Division of Indian Works Minneapolis \$500

3.) Annandale Art and Textiles \$500

Local: 1.) Kevin Worley Medical Bill (lost both legs and fingers) \$2,500

2.) Bonde Family of Buffalo (lost home in fire) \$1,000

3.) Food Shelf \$2,000

4.) Monticello Diversity Group \$1,000

Total: \$11,300 (World, Metro, Local) + \$1,200 (UCC Programs) = \$12,500

Oct. 19 next Council meeting. Meg will not be there.

Motion to Adjourn Meg, Second Mike. Meeting Adjourned at 1:09

Cultural Dinner Celebrating Singapore

On Saturday, October 18, St. Paul's will hold its next Cultural Dinner celebrating the country Singapore. Lani Brown-Worley's daughter, Traci Moore, and her family, including her husband and three daughters lived there for over a year and will share what they learned about the culture and the country. Among their favorite topics to discuss about that year is the fabulous food they could eat each day. They especially loved the Singapore Street Noodles, so we will have a recipe for them in the cookbook. The girls will be excited to eat those noodles once again.

The recipe book will be sent out on October 3 so watch your e-mails for that and make your selection of what you plan to cook. Like last time with Bangladesh, it was helpful when people replied to the recipe book email naming their choice so others could make a different dish.

The church will be open for set-up at 4:30 with the dinner served at 5:00. Everyone is invited even if you do not cook. You can always donate a few dollars for kitchen pantry supplies if desired.



Singapore Street Noodles

Book Study Begins Oct. 14th

Our book study group this fall will be reading Brian Kaylor, The Bible According to Christian Nationalists: exploiting Scripture for political power (Chalice Press, 2025).

Christian Nationalism is a growing political force that is exerting great influence on the current administration. Rev. Dr. Kaylor helps us identify and refute ways in which this movement misuses the Bible. Pastor Kent will be ordering copies of this book the first week in October. If you are interested in joining the study, please contact Pastor Kent.

The study group will begin on Tuesday, Oct. 14th, 1:30 – 3pm, in the Fellowship Hall.

TABLES USED FOR DINING

The options for preparing tables for dining prior to fellowship or other dining events are: 1). Wash tabletops with antibacterial solution or a soap/water spray in sufficient time for the table to dry before dining. A Dawn/water solution is contained in a spray bottle is located on the counter under the south window in the kitchen for this purpose OR 2). Tablecloths may be used, if removed, folded and stored promptly after dining. The food server will select the option.

SEARCH COMMITTEE NOTES

The Search Committee continues our work. Profiles of persons interested in our pastoral position are under thoughtful consideration.

We are in contact with our Conference Minister for Congregations in Transition, Rev. Cindy Mueller, and she continues to help us. You can see our job posting, and the postings of other Minnesota churches, on the Minnesota Conference website uccmn.org (go to **ABOUT** and select **EMPLOYMENT**).

The process of calling a settled pastor is typically taking longer than it has in the past. We are grateful for the leadership of Pastor Kent during this interim period. We are also blessed with the many talents of our congregation!

The Search Committee

Deanna, Mike, Shala, Judy, Shelly and Laura

Profit and Loss Statement

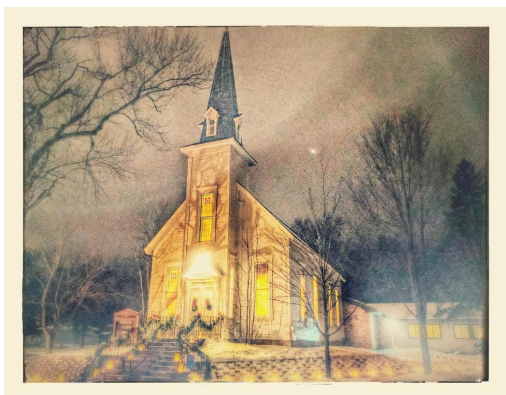
September 1-30, 2025

<i>Income</i>	
Tithes/Offering	\$ 3,549
Total Income	\$3,549
<i>Expenses</i>	
Staffing	\$ 3,728
Building and Grounds	\$ 3,049
Office Expenses	\$ 532
Meetings/Conferences (Mileage)	\$ 40
Computer Support and Supplies	\$ -65
Insurance—Work Comp	\$ 171
Utilities	\$ 385
Total Expenses	\$ 7,840
<i>Net Income/Loss</i>	\$ (4,291)

Sharing Good News

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Newsletter: October 2025



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Pastor Cell Phone: (507) 458-0757

Pastor Kent Meyer Office Hours
Tuesday's 11:00 am—6:30 pm

*Together for Worship on a Sunday
Morning*



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