

SHARING GOOD NEWS ST PAUL'S UCC DELANO MN

Volume 3 Issue 3

March, 2026

MARCH CALENDAR

03/01 Communion
03/08 Daylight Saving Begins
03/17 St. Patrick's Day
03/29 Palm Sunday

FELLOWSHIP HOSTS

03/01 Pot Luck
03/08 Leck
03/15 Open
03/22 Open
03/29 Open



Birthdays

03/04 James Holm	03/22 Neil Carter
03/06 Dianna Meyer	03/28 Laurence Rieder
03/13 Wayne Keplinger	03/29 Gretchen Stewart
03/15 Ann Robinson	03/30 Meg Conrard



Remember your Easter flower order form is due March 15th. Please make checks payable to St. Paul's UCC. Order forms are located by the church office. Your flowers will be placed at the alter during Easter service and then to take home!



John Frank Kappe March 4, 1935 - February 11, 2026

Please remember John in your thoughts and prayers.

John was born on March 4, 1935 to Clarence and Gladys (Schwerin) Kappe in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

John grew up in Delano and worked on the family dairy farm until his retirement.

He served in the army at Ft. Huachuca, Arizona.

John was skilled in radio and electronics repair and he shared his abilities with neighbors by fixing many broken appliances. His love for old tractors brought him to annual threshing shows across the state.

Preceded in death by his parents.

John is survived by his sister, Ann Robinson, nieces Lynn and Lori Robinson and their families, as well as many cousins and friends.

Pictured is John Kappe and James Holm Celebrating John's 85th birthday 2020

Lenten Soup Suppers

St Paul's will host Lenten suppers on Tuesdays through Lent. Sign up sheet is by the church office.

- | | |
|--------------|---------------|
| 02/24 Holm | 03/17 Hagerty |
| 03/03 Becker | 03/24 Open |
| 03/10 Open | 03/31 Worley |





A BIG thank you to Pastor Kent for his service and leadership as our Interim Pastor June 2024 – March 3, 2026. There will be a Potluck lunch after church in the Fellowship hall to celebrate Pastor Kent.

St. Paul's UCC Annual Meeting
Minutes for Year 2025
February 15, 2026

Church Council President Michael Hagerty **called meeting to order** at 9:57am.

Shala offered an **opening prayer** and a physical count of **members found 22** in attendance, constituting a quorum.

Minutes of Annual Meeting for 2024 held on February 16, 2025 were approved. M: Vicki Hagerty S: Shala Holm*

Treasurer Jim Holm presented the **Financial Report Recap for 2025**. His packet included our **Investment Fund Summary** for 2025 which did very well for the third year in a row with a 10% increase. Although the Budget for 2025 was set at \$78,610, we only received offerings totaling \$59,982.00. The **Budget for 2026** is set at \$76,155.00 as we plan to cut back slightly on spending. We are fortunate that our new pastor's salary will be the same amount as Pastor Kent's. We are also very grateful for all the labor hours that Dave Rieder and Hal Becker donated to the maintenance of our building and grounds. **Mission Report for 2025** summarized our giving of \$14,215.00 which is considerably more than last year. In November and December our personal giving was extremely generous as we helped our immigrant families with food, a Christmas party, and gifts, but we did not see any year end increase in offerings for the church general fund. Based on a reduction in contributions, we may not be able to give as much to our missions in 2026. **Profit and Loss** - We met our 2025 obligations by using the \$10,000 withdrawn in 2024 from the investment fund (but not used), plus \$6,000 withdrawn in November 2025. The Budget for 2026 was approved. M: Judy Crosby S: Charlie Leck*

Pastor's Report – Interim Pastor Kent Meyer submitted a statistical report of mileage, visits, home communions, meetings, and services. He suggested that if our new pastor suggests a Stewardship Program that we support one, so the Council has an estimate of anticipated giving throughout the year. He praised our mission work and said his experience with us gave him a wonderful capstone to his career.

Judy Crosby gave the **Cemetery Committee** and **Worship Committee Reports**. The iron post at the entrance was fixed, but the downed tree still needs to be cut up and removed. Our by-laws for the cemetery need to be updated. The members of the Cemetery Committee include Laurence Rieder, Chuck Rieder, Judy Crosby, and the Pastor. The Worship Committee has the plan outlined for services through Ash Wed. She thanked the people who helped with the organ and carillon issues, the organ music each Sunday, and those who cover worship services in the pastor's absence. The Worship Committee members include Judy Crosby, Lani Brown-Worley, Deanna Becker, and Gretchen Stewart.

Mike Hagerty reported on the **Accomplishments in 2025 and our Five-Year Plan**. Our **accomplishments** included hiring a new settled part-time pastor, holding a Pride Festival booth in a Monticello park, and a Justice Day event in our church yard, adding 3 new members, planting perennials and adding donated mulch, updating our sound equipment, continuing Cultural Dinners, painting the west side exterior, and continuing our Teamwork Africa sponsorship. The Five-Year Plan includes goals to become financially sustainable and increase membership. Our community outreach will include helping the Delano Food Shelf, offering support for social justice, and contributing to local and world missions. We want to support our website, offer Bible/Book Studies, and hold Lenten Soup Suppers.

We plan to attend to the physical needs of our building and cemetery. We will cultivate our Peace Garden and hold periodic Fellowship Clean-up days. We know we may need to repair or replace our furnace and replace our carpet in the Fellowship Hall.

St. Paul's UCC Annual Meeting Continued

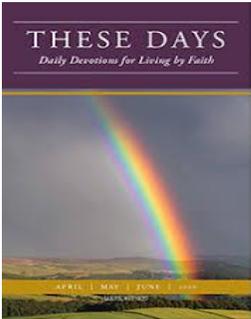
Election of Council Members -Terms expiring: Judy Crosby, Meg Conrad and Mike Hagerty. Four people placed their names in nomination for the 3 expiring terms. They included Judy Crosby, Meg Conard, Penny Bailey, and Joyce Specht. A vote by paper ballot showed Meg and Joyce were elected with Judy and Penny tied. Penny withdrew her name leaving Judy on the Council.

Motion to Adjourn by Vicki Hagerty with Second by Shala Holm. Pastor Kent closed with our singing "God Be with You." Meeting adjourned at 11:00

Dave and Logan Rieder served the **Fellowship** luncheon of pancakes and sausages.

**Indicates adoption by voice majority vote. M= Motion S= Second
 Copies of reports, agendas, financial documents, and minutes were available to all.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Lani Brown-Worley



These Days daily devotion booklets are available for the months April, May June. They are located on the piano in the sanctuary.

Profit and Loss	
St. Paul's United Church of Christ	
February 1-28, 2026	
GL Account	Total
Income	
49500 Tithes/Offerings	2,677.00
Expenses	
50000 Staffing	\$3,808.00
51000 Buildings & Grounds	\$477.04
51100 Office Expenses	\$309.37
57000 Worship Expenses	\$66.55
61700 Computer Support & Supplies	38.00
Total for 61800 Conferences and Meetings	\$169.09
Total for 62500 Dues and Subscriptions	\$80.00
66000 Payroll Expenses	15.96
Total for 68600 Utilities	\$254.68
Total for Expenses	\$5,218.69
Net Income	-\$2,541.69



Note from Our New Pastor Karen Larson

Tell me your stories.

"...we, who are many, are one body in Christ..." (Romans 12:5a NRSVUE)



One night last December, I had the strangest experience.

That day, my husband Steve and I had hosted Larson Christmas, squeezing 20-some people into our not-so-big south Minneapolis house. Because my brother, sister and I were in the process of readying my mother's house on the farm for sale, we had asked all the guests to bring and share a story about something they remember happening in that house.

The story-telling was rich. The ancestors came back to life for us older folks, and came to life for the first time for the younger ones. Some of us were even wearing things we'd found in the house—my dad's Army uniforms, my grandpa's striped farm overalls, even my great-grandmother's Gold Star pin.

It was all delightfully funny and sweet and sad. But not so strange. The strange thing happened later when I went to bed.

Lying there awake in the dark, I was suddenly aware of a strong physical sensation throughout my body. My extremities began to buzz; it felt like an electrical current was pulsing through them. My core seemed to be swirling inside. My body felt as if it were literally teeming with countless beings, each of them carrying on a busy life of their own... as if every cell of my body were its own breathing, moving, sentient creature.

This went on for a long time, maybe an hour. I finally came to believe that all the beloved family members I had interacted with that day, and all the ancestors of whom we had spoken and remembered back into being, were living their lives *inside* me, *now*.

It was mystical. It was thrilling. It was weird!

Ever since this experience, the Body of Christ... the vine and the branches... the great cloud of witnesses... all these brilliant Biblical metaphors of unity and connection have become more real to me, tangible. I can now see that we creatures are in fact all parts of one great organism, which is the object of God's unending love and attention.

I share this with you now, my friends, because I am about to enter into a body—St. Paul's United Church of Christ—that is new to me, yet as old as the land on which we meet. Your stories—as individuals and as church—are rich with love and loss, challenge and setback, birth and growth. Always, always, God has been showing up in you, in the everyday being and striving you have experienced. I can't wait to hear all about it.

Please share. Your stories matter to me. I will try to move slowly and listen carefully.

I am very excited to be united with you in ministry!
Pastor Karen



Contact Us

Church Phone: (763) 972-6689

Pastor Cell Phone: (507) 458-0757

Pastor Kent Meyer Office Hours

Tuesday 11:00 am – 6:30 pm

Email: Delanoucc@gmail.com

Website: www.delanoucc.org

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March 2026

ST PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

201 Buffalo Street

P O Box 187

Delano MN 55328

