

SHARING GOOD NEWS ST PAUL'S UCC DELANO MN

Volume 4 Issue 3

April 2026

APRIL CALENDAR

04/01 April Fools Day

04/02 Maudy Thursday Tenebrae
Service 6:30 pm

04/03 Good Friday

04/05 Easter/Communion

4/16 Big Woods Garden Club
Meeting 6:00

FELLOWSHIP HOSTS

04/05 No Fellowship (Easter)

04/12 Worley

04/19 Specht

04/26 Holm



Don't forget to take your easter
flower/s home after the service.



Birthdays!

04/05 Cliff Specht

04/07 GERALYN LUCHT

04/14 Shelly Hussing

04/29 Karen Deitering



Come together for the full experience of Holy Week:

Palm Sunday, March 29

9:15 am – Worship with palms, followed by fellowship

12:30 pm – Leave for 2:00 Palm Sunday worship at the
Minnesota Capitol

Tenebrae Service, Thursday, April 2

6:30 pm – A service of darkening shadows, as we read and
sing our way through Matthew 26-27

Easter Celebration of the Resurrection, April 5

9:15 am – Worship with music, alleluias, flowers and
Communion. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

St. Paul's UCC Church Council Minutes for March 22, 2026

Attendance: Mike, Lani, Jim, Judy, Meg, and welcomed new members: Pastor Karen Larson, Joyce Specht

1. Mike called the meeting to order at 10:34 and led us with a prayer.
2. Additions to Agenda: none
3. Election of officers to Council – President position: Judy nominated Meg, Jim volunteered Treasurer, Lani volunteered Secretary. Accepted all unanimously.
4. Council thanked Mike and he left turning meeting over to Meg.
5. Jim motion, Judy second, Passed. Approving Minutes for Jan. 18.
6. Jim reviewed financial report. Jan 1 to Mar. 1. Green Wealth continued growth. We received one large contribution. We made final reimbursement to Pastor Kent and generated new pastor pay. We reimbursed Dave Rieder for work under \$500. Next meeting is on April 19 with Larry Olson, our financial advisor. Jim corrected his statement that we had a base amount included for color copies; we actually pay for every color copy per page. No changes to color copies or font size of bulletin required. Judy motion to approve financial report, Joyce second. Passed.
7. Pastor's report: Discussed how Pastor visited many other local churches, arranged a visitation to Kevin Handt with Pastor and Judy, revitalizing Thanksgiving Eve joint community service, our presence on social media, promoting that we are "open and affirming" officially (adding it to our bulletin weekly). Approved Pastor inviting Liberian preacher to come and preach on May 3.
8. Meg explained that we are sending handwritten letters to 5 members who have not attended in 5 years inquiring if they chose to remain members. All council members signed each letter. We pay UCC Conference per member each year.
9. Meg inquired about buying a brick to be installed at the Sculpture Garden on Highway 12 for \$150 in honor of Delano's 150th celebration. Discussed what we want written on it. "St. Paul's United Church of Christ est. 1879" Meg will buy brick by deadline of March 31 and figure out the characters per line.
10. Paid Dave Rieder for his work over many months.
11. Joyce volunteered to read, review, and recommend any possible revisions to our Church By-laws. Jim will send us a copy of current by-laws.
12. Installation Service for Rev. Karen, potentially in Sept. Conference members will be invited.
13. Easter newspaper advertising is due by March 23 with Delano Herald. We will print: We are an Open and Affirming Church of Extravagant Welcome and our Easter service information.
14. Liberia Cultural Brunch with Teamwork Africa is Sunday, May 3.
15. Peace Sunday is May 31. Worship Committee will plan and report to us.
16. Next meeting April 19.
17. Motion to adjourn Joyce, second Meg. 12:02

A Note from Ann Robinson (John's sister) regarding John Kappe's Funeral at St. Paul's February 11, 2026

To the church of St. Paul's UCC: It was so nice to come "home" to the church. It brought back so many memories, and it still looks the same. I have always loved the stained-glassed windows and the big picture of Jesus and the lamb.

Thank you for uncovering it again. John always felt the same. Our family always sat in the third row from the back. I hope it never changes.

John's funeral was just for him. Pastor Kent was wonderful. John also appreciated him coming to the Legacy and talking about the "good old days" and having communion.

May this old church last forever! God bless.

Sincerely,

Ann Robinson



Two ways

By a perversion of justice
he was taken away.
—Isaiah 53.8

Don't blame the cross on God,
on some crazed deity's scheme
to sell forgiveness for blood.
That's a lie.
Jesus' death wasn't God's plan:
it was ours.

This is the story of our fear,
and fear's depravity and violence.
It's the story of how we judge,
and think we can,
the portrait of fear's only hands and feet:
curses, weapons, prisons, blood.
Forget your wearable crucifixes:
this is every rape and lynching,
every put-down, every beating,
every authoritarian act.
Look at the news: it's that.

And it's the story of another way, God's way,
God's unfailing love toward us,
and the Way God invites us to follow,
to thread all this brutality
with gentleness and blessing.

Notice the Two Ways.
Be astounded either way.
Make your choice.

(by Steve Garnaas-Holmes)

Alex Pretti Memorial in Minneapolis

(Pictures Taken by James Holm)



Hey Music Lovers....Check This Out



Financial Report Summary – Council Meeting March 22, 2026

Checking Acct = \$10,917.26

Income = \$15,224.00 YTD (Jan 1-Mar 20)

Expenses = \$16,431.35 (Jan 1-Mar 20)

Net = -<\$1,207.35>

Green Wealth Investment Acct as of Feb. 28, 2026 = \$487,987.65

Account is up \$4,889.50 YTD

These are Year to Date totals (Jan 1-Mar 20). Expenses include final payments to Rev. Kent and March salary for Rev. Karen. Also, a \$477.04 reimbursement for building repairs & maintenance to Dave Rieder for work done in both 2025 & 2026.

Note from Pastor Karen Larson



The ugly reality and the beautiful Reality.

“Suddenly one of those with Jesus put his hand on his sword, drew it, and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. Then Jesus said to him, “Put your sword back into its place, for all who take the sword will die by the sword...”(Matthew 26:51-52, NRSVUE)

I will never forget “The Revenant” movie. Amid the splendor of wild places, it shockingly illustrates the price of violence on the human soul. After a bear attack, the main character, Hugh Glass, is left for dead in the remote wilderness by his trapper companions, one of whom has murdered his son. Glass’s survival is astonishing to watch, fed by his overwhelming desire for revenge.

This power of violence is an ugly reality of human existence. The desire for “an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth,” and the spiraling of revenge, are deeply engrained in us.

Jesus presents an alternative. In the face of violence, he never responds violently. He expresses anger. He speaks truth in the face of evil. He goes as far as knocking over tables in the temple to make a point. But he never hurts anyone. He shows us a life of healing, feeding, and building relationships.

As bombs fall on schools, detainees suffer in camps, trans kids question life itself, and political leaders react with recklessness or paralysis, we remember that we have chosen the way of Jesus, who said, “Put your sword away.” As one of my Lenten devotions puts it, “We are called to live in a peaceful Kingdom, though violence rages all around.”

I am proud of the people of Minnesota and the nation who are choosing nonviolent resistance. I am in awe of African Americans who have suffered for so long and still believe in the potential of America. I am grateful for Indigenous peoples who show us sustainable ways to live together on this land. And I give thanks for our little church that cares within its own circle and beyond, supporting each other in the Jesus way. We are Resurrection people living as faithfully as we can in a Crucifixion culture.

Join us as we go deeper on this way during Holy Week. On March 29, Palm Sunday, in Delano and St. Paul, we will call “Hosanna! Save us!” to our humble Savior as he enters the city that “kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it.” On April 2, in a Tenebrae service, we will dwell in the story of Jesus’ last hours, and, I pray, find new solidarity with any who suffer. On April 5, we return to the sanctuary for a joyful celebration of the Resurrection. My prayer for this Easter is that it is a time of spiritual growth and transformation for you, and for us as a church, society and species.

When we’re tempted to buy into the logic of the world’s ugly reality, let’s trust again that God’s beautiful Reality will prevail.

In it with you, Pastor Karen



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SHARING GOOD NEWS

April 2026

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