

Lent and Easter at St. Paul's United Methodist Church



Sun, March 6 – Unbinding Your Heart begins

Groups are forming and begin meeting together next week! If you still need to purchase your book and get signed up, please contact the office or sign up this weekend. The Small Group Leaders who have been preparing have been praying for you and for St. Paul's. May you draw even closer to God through these 40 days of prayer and faith sharing.



Wed, Mar 9 – Ash Wednesday

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17; Psalm 51:1-17; 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21. Services in the Sanctuary for all, 12:15-12:45 and 7:00-7:30.

Our Ash Wednesday worship of God will include the act of imposing ashes on our foreheads in the sign of the cross. It is a call to remembrance that our bodies are temporary; yet we are called into immortal life through the everlasting love of God in Jesus Christ. Come to worship on Ash Wednesday at either 12:15 to 12:45 pm or 7:00 to 7:30 pm. We will read scripture, pray, remember and experience the grace of God in Jesus Christ.

Sat-Sun, March 12-13 – The First Sunday in Lent

Matthew 4:1-11; Acts 9:1-19.

Unbinding Your Heart: The Paul Problem

Sat-Sun, March 19-20 – The Second Sunday in Lent

Romans 8:24-28; Luke 5:1-10.

Unbinding Your Heart: The Prayer Plunge.

Wed, March 23 – No TGIW due to Spring Break

Sat-Sun, March 26-27 – The Third Sunday in Lent

John 9:1-41; Acts 2:14, 32-39.

Unbinding Your Heart: The Converted Community

Sat-Sun, April 2-3 – The Fourth Sunday in Lent

John 4:7-10, 16-29.

Unbinding Your Heart: Catalytic Conversation

Sat-Sun, April 9-10 – The Fifth Sunday in Lent

Ephesians 2:19-22; Mark 1:1-12.

Unbinding Your Heart: Healing Hospitality

Sat-Sun, April 16-17 – Palm Sunday

Matthew 21:1-11; Philippians 2:5-11; Matthew 14:22-33. Unbinding Your Heart: Faith Focus.



Wed, April 20 – Regular TGIW

Thurs, April 21 – Holy Thursday

Exodus 12:1-14; Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-17, 31b-35

During Holy Week, the adult choirs from 1st Lutheran and St. Paul's UMC will combine forces to present in worship the Lenten portion of G. F. Handel's Messiah. With a chamber orchestra, the combined choirs will be part of St. Paul's 7:30 Maundy Thursday worship and 1st Lutheran's 7:30 Good Friday worship.

Fri, April 22 – Good Friday – A Service of Shadows and Communion

The Passion according to Matthew. Services in the Sanctuary for everyone, 12:15-12:45; and 7:00 p.m.

Sat. April 23 – Neighborhood Easter Egg Hunt

Children and their families, toddlers through 5th grade, are all invited to a neighborhood Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 23rd at 10 am. We'll start at Westminster Presbyterian Church where we'll decorate bags and learn about why we do egg hunts at Easter. Then we'll walk to Redmond Park to gather eggs. No need to bring a basket, just come and have fun! Westminster Presbyterian Church is located across 3rd Ave from St. Paul's at 1285 3rd Ave SE. This activity is sponsored by our neighborhood churches: St. Paul's UMC, First Lutheran Church, First Presbyterian Church, and Westminster Presbyterian Church. We'll also need volunteers to hide eggs and guide children, so if you're interested in helping, please contact Pastor Allison at 363-2058 or allison@stpaulsumc.org.

Sat-Sun, April 23-24 – Easter!

Saturday 5:30; Sunday 8:15, 9:00, 10:30, and 11:30 all in the Sanctuary!



Worship at St. Paul's

**Sunday's worship may be viewed on:
Mediacom Cable Channel 18 at 6:00pm Wednesdays
ImOn Channel 4 at 10:00am Thursdays

March 5 & 6

Transfiguration of Our Lord
Exodus 24:12-18; 2 Peter 1:16-21; Matthew 17:1-9
"Transformers—The Prequel"

March 9

Ash Wednesday - Worship at 12:15 and 7:00 pm
Joel 2:1-2, 12-17; Psalm 51:1-17; 2
Corinthians 5:20b-6:10; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

March 12 & 13

First Sunday in Lent
Matthew 4:1-11; Acts 9:1-19
"Unbinding Your Heart: The Paul Problem"

Come, invite someone to join you and worship God!

Weekly Highlights

Sunday, March 6

8:15, 10:30 Worship - Chapel
9:00 Worship - Sanctuary
10:30 & 11:30 Worship - Social Hall
10:20am Sunday School for all ages
10:20am New Member Class - Choir Loft in Sanctuary

Monday, March 7

8:30-10:30am Thrift Mart Drop Off
8:30am School Bag Workshop - Ingathering
6:30pm Congregational Care - Parlor
7:00pm SYRUP - Room 110

Tuesday, March 8

9:00am Holiday Fair Craft Workshops - Annex
9-11:00am Staff Meetings
1:30pm Dorcas Circle - Annex
6:00pm Trustees - Parlor
6:30pm Neighborhood Meals - Library
6:30pm Stephen Ministry Small Groups - 317

Wednesday, March 9

7:00am Men's Bible Study - Annex
9:30am Stitching for Missions - Annex
12:15 pm Ash Wednesday Worship - Sanctuary
5:15pm TGIW Meal & Activities
7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Worship - Sanctuary

Thursday, March 10

9:15am GAP Bible Study - 119
9:30am Women's Bible Study - Annex
12:00 pm Ruth Circle - Parlor
7:00pm Financial Peace University - 317
7:00 pm Deborah Circle - Offsite

Friday, March 11

9:30am Bulletin Stuffers - Parlor
12:00pm Office Closed

Saturday, March 12

5:15pm Child Care - 214
5:30pm Saturday Celebration - Sanctuary

Please see website calendar (www.stpaulsumc.org)
or weekly bulletin for more coming events.



Rev. Harlan Gillespie
Senior Pastor

From Harlan

Like the necessities of both night and day, rest and work, breathing in and breathing out – so also is the necessity of both Lent and Easter.

During Lent this year, our worship services will be centered on the theme from our all-congregation Lenten study: Unbinding Your Heart. If you have not yet purchased a book and signed up for a small group or Sunday school class, please do so soon; and let me share with you why I believe this is a necessity.

The world in which we live requires a strong, mature faith. There is more than enough anxiety that fans the fires of our emotions. Unbinding Your Heart is about sharing the faith of Jesus Christ, helping us through prayer with one another to tell the story of Jesus in our own lives and to listen to that story in the lives of others. We need, the community around us needs, the world needs the story of Jesus just as much or more so today than in days past.

You can purchase a book for \$15 in the office and before or after worship this weekend. Small groups are forming – and to get the most out of the study be a part of a small group and attend worship weekly. Most of all, this Lenten study is built upon prayer with and for one another. I have personally experienced a new sense of faith as I prayed and studied with other pastors and lay persons of St. Paul's in the last three months as we have prepared ourselves for this study. We've also been praying for you and for the church.

Jesus took three disciples, who had their own deep anxieties of their day and future, up to the mountain. It was not long before he traveled to Jerusalem for his death and resurrection. On that mountain, overshadowing all of their differences, Jesus was transformed before them – and they were left speechless, except for a few nonsensical words. True transformation is just that – an overwhelming awe that originates from within, and it only comes from God. We may rearrange our lives a bit here and there with opinions and decisions, but this action is surface stuff. God seeks to transform us with overwhelming love, a love that only God gives, a love so deep that it is too much for us to think about fully. I'll explain more this weekend in worship.



School For Lay Ministry

If you want to equip yourself for ministry within the United Methodist Church in Iowa, consider applying for the IA School for Lay Ministry! As a graduate of the three-year curriculum, you will have explored 12 areas of ministry and you will grow in depth of understanding in your call to lay ministry within St. Paul's or any local church. Pick up a brochure at the Welcome Centers. Speak with any of the pastors about this opportunity. Classes begin in the Fall with applications being accepted now. Speak to us about scholarship opportunities!



Prayer - The Ministry of Caring of the St. Paul's Family

March 3, 2011

As you touched the disciples on the mountain top and said to them, "Get up and do not be afraid" so also touch and speak to us as we pray for... See Matthew 17:1-9

- St. Paul's E-vent for Lent! Unbinding your Heart: 40 Days of Prayer and Faith Sharing.
- Those hospitalized at St. Mary's Rochester, and St. Luke's
- Those under Hospice Care
- The search for employment and the faith supporting one another.
- Memorial prayers for the family and friends of those persons who have recently died.
- Those persons who are in need of continued healing and grace.
- Stephen Ministries; Block by Block; Organizing of Family Promise homeless ministry.
- The education of children, youth and adults and the policies of education.
- The people of the Middle East - its citizens, leaders, and peoples of many different faiths.
- The district church of the week: Solon UMC, and Pastors Rev. Carol Kress and Rev. Christine Humrichouse.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Prayer requests for this devotion of caring will be added upon request and updated weekly. Names listed here under continued healing and grace will remain on the list for 3 weeks; if you would like a name on the list longer please let us know. Communicate by use of the prayer request boxes, phone 363-2058, or e-mail silg@stpaulsumc.org or harlan@stpaulsumc.org. Include a permission to share with others, or a request for confidentiality.

SERVICES ON DVD

The Sunday 9 AM services are available (on DVD) to check out from the church library. Several copies are made each week, free of charge, for those who are homebound. If you know of someone who would appreciate this service, please let Linda know. (ljandik@stpaulsumc.org or 363-2058.) The DVD's need not be returned. They can be kept or shared — a great way to inform others about St. Paul's.

2011 Basic Lay Speaker Training

Friday, April 1 and Saturday, April 2 at Pictured Rocks UMC Camp & Retreat Center, 12004 190th St, Monticello IA 52310. Cost is \$35.00-includes lodging, meals, and material. **The basic course is** the foundational course for other leadership training courses. It is designed to equip new leaders and renew current leaders. The course covers these topics: servant and spiritual leadership, caring ministries, basic communications skills, sharing your faith, and leading meetings.



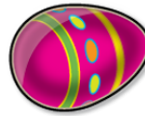
Welcome Deb Orr and Matt German!

Deb Orr (dorr@stpaulsumc.org) began as St. Paul's new part-time Administrative Assistant and Volunteer Coordinator on March 1. She's a longtime resident of Cedar Rapids.

Matt German (mgerman@stpaulsumc.org) began as St. Paul's Contemporary Worship Leader on February 1. He is a student at University of Dubuque, and has acted as a Praise Team leader at First United Methodist, Marion.



Easter Egg Candy Needed



St. Paul's, along with First Lutheran, First Presbyterian, and Westminster Presbyterian churches, will be hosting a Neighborhood Easter Egg Hunt the Saturday before Easter (April 23). Children will be stuffing eggs as part of TGIW Mission Club in March. If you could help by donating candy, it would be greatly appreciated. Please bring individually wrapped candy to the church office **by March 14**. If you have questions or are interested in helping with the Easter Egg Hunt itself, please contact Pastor Allison (363-2058 or allison@stpaulsumc.org).

Network of Faith Supplies Homeless Programs

The Network of Faith, sponsored by the Inter-Religious Council, is a group of diverse faith communities in Linn County who share in helping area homeless shelters provide for the needs of those they serve. This year we, as



members of St Paul's UMC, are collecting paper products and cleaning supplies for The Cedar House Emergency Shelter. The Cedar House has been providing emergency shelter for homeless men and women, with or without children, since 2001. Their services include sleeping accommodations, laundry and shower facilities, and agency referrals. Please see the bulletin board in the main hall for information on how you can help fulfill the needs of The Cedar House. Please bring the item on your fish to St Paul's by Sunday, March 27. **Thank you** - from the Sending to Serve committee!

STEPHEN MINISTRY CLASS



The start of the next Stephen Ministry class is being moved to August, as it was in 2010. The start date and complete schedule will be available soon.



UMW, Every Daughter Tea Presents:

"*Teacups and Tiaras: Being God's Little Princesses*"

Date: Sat. March 5 from 10-12.

Cost: \$3 suggested donation for adults.

Please RSVP to office.

Suggested Attire: Princess gowns, Ball Gowns, Tiaras - Fancy, fancy, fancy! (This is for both big and little girls!)

Special Guests: Moses and the Ten Commandants and The Etiquette Lady.

There will be crafts, a Gigi episode, and tea and fancy cookies.

Hearing Assistance

Devices for Worship

If you have a hearing impairment, whether slight or major, try one of our hearing assistance devices, which are available from the ushers. These devices are small (will fit in a shirt pocket) and have a small earpiece that "hooks" in the ear.

LIBRARY HOURS

The library will be staffed with volunteers at the following times:

Wednesdays: 9:00AM - 12:00PM

Sundays: 9:00AM - 12:00PM

St. Paul's library will open upon request at any time.



Coming Events...

- March 6 *Lenten Study Starts – Unbinding Your Heart!*
- March 9 *Ash Wednesday*
- March 23 *No TGIW*
- April 17 *Palm Sunday*
- April 20 *Regular TGIW*
- April 21 *Maundy Thursday Worship – Combined Choirs*
- April 22 *Good Friday (Sanct. Choir @ First Lutheran)*
- April 23 *Neighborhood Easter Egg Hunt*
- April 24 *Easter!*

THRIFT MART - SPRING 2011

Thrift Mart will be resuming soon. The sale dates are Friday and Saturday April 1 and 2. Donations can be brought to the 3rd Avenue entrance on Saturdays March 12 and March 26 during the hours of 3:30 to 5:30 PM. Donations may also be brought each Monday during the hours of 8:30 - 10:30 AM.



There is a growing need for more volunteers for the Thrift Mart event. Age and health issues are taking a toll on our workforce and more helping hands are very welcome. If you have questions, please contact Doug Thompson (366-6863) or Mary Hurlbut (377-5843)

90th Birthday Reception for Barb Newhall March 19th



All are invited to attend a reception in the Parlor at St. Paul's on March 19 from 2:00-5:00 pm for Barb Newhall's 90th birthday. If you wish to contribute pictures or reminiscences (either on paper or via e-mail) to a memory book, please contact the office at 363-2058 or at lrunkle@stpaulsumc.org.

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE!

College and seminary scholarships are available from:

Iowa United Methodist Church Foundation

Application due date: **March 15, 2011**

For more information: www.iumf.org

UMC General Board of Higher Education & Ministry

Application due dates: **Various**

For more information: www.gbhem.org

St. Paul's United Methodist Church Foundation

Application due date: **April 15, 2011**

For more information: www.stpaulsumc.org

Click on *St. Paul's Foundation* on the home page, then *Scholarships*.

Don't miss these great opportunities for college funding! You can't possibly receive any if you don't apply. DO IT NOW!!!

TGI Wednesdays

Activities for children, youth and adults!

Evening meal served at 5:15pm

(Suggested donation: \$4.00/meal)



Holiday Fair Craft Workshops

In the Annex on Tuesdays at 9:00 am.

Come join us!

Harlan Gillespie, Senior Pastor
Sherrie Ilg, Associate Pastor
Phil Rogers, Minister of Youth

Allison Warren, Minister of Christian Education
Lloyd E. Brockmeyer, Minister of Congregational Care
Carol Tralau, Director of Music Ministries
Matt German, Contemporary Worship Leader

Outlook DEADLINE: EVERY MONDAY AT NOON

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