

# THE ANCHOR

A publication of St. Paul's United Methodist Church, Williamsburg, Iowa No. 11 November 2024

## *A Letter from Rev. Beth*

### **We are indeed in a season of harvest at St. Paul's!**

As we see the fields that are primarily empty, we witness that the grain storage is overfull with many piles of grain simply put down on the ground for there is no room in the silos, warehouses, and grain bins.

We have just celebrated our Charge Conference, celebrating the past year, and looking forward to the goals we have proclaimed for the next. Our fearless leader of our Board, John Lane, has also just announced that our church will soon be paying off our building debt at the bank thanks to such generosity!

And now this Sunday, November 3rd, we will be celebrating All Saints Sunday, recognizing the saints from our church family who have gone on to their great reward to serve in the Great Cloud of Witnesses.

As we look all around us, we see that life is good. Does there continue to be suffering and strife? We are human, and so that is always the case, especially in an election year. However there is much to celebrate as we begin the end of the year preparation for feasting and Great Thanksgiving, and lifting up the One that brings us never ending grace.

Jesus called this great abundance with which we find ourselves as heaven among us. When we see the harvest from great sacrifice, we are provoked into a deeper love for one another in sharing our gifts and our love and our good deeds.

I have now been with you for 4 months and I have seen heaven in many ways through the great generosity and grace that lives and breathes among you.

I recently had the pleasure of ordering Bibles for your confirmation students here at our church. Given choice, I had to 'talk them into' choosing better Bibles than the ones that they originally chose. I suggested that they will soon be an adult that will need a resourceful Bible that will serve them well in Bible Studies and in College classes. As we consider the harvests that we hope for in our lives, we need to not minimize in the ways that we invest our own gifts and graces, time and talents. If we will have a great witness like the ones that we have been given, we need to give not only out of our abundance, but also out of our poverty. And where shall we give it? Where it came from of course! We need to be generous wherever our God lives and breathes in our lives, including in the lives of others.

As we consider the abundant lives that we lead, let us remember the giving of those who have gone on before, who in turn have been giving their gifts to the future. We each need to pray more for our own stewardship and creation of the communal future before us. Have we enjoyed a church building, worship service, programming, song, study, or celebration? Somebody provided that. Is it our turn to invest in our common legacy?

As we consider the choices of the ways we can make these investments, votes, and promises, let us meditate on what Jesus would do and in fact did do for us, through us, and with us.

Thank you for all of the stewardship that you have already participated in with your very life.

Thank you for all you already Are and Do for Christ!

*Beth*





# Care Connection News

## November 2024



Care-Team Members: Kim Ebsen, Laura Gustafson, Donna Heitman, Marvel Jones, Bonnie Kinkead, Kelly Loftus, Karen Phelps, Roger Rathjen, Delores Reinhart, Beth Ann Schlesselman and Rev. Beth Harbaugh

S.P.U.M.C. has so much to celebrate this month; here's a little taste. All Saint's Sunday is on the 3rd, we will recognize the souls who have passed on and cherish their memories. Thursday the 7th will be a luncheon time when the "Alzheimer's Association" will be offering a class called "Healthy Living For Your Brain and Body: Tips On The Latest Research." It starts at noon and please bring your own brown bag lunch. Sunday, November 10th we will observe Veterans Day (11-11) and the great sacrifice of men and women. Thank you for your service, you are all heroes. On November 12th, we will offer "Hope- Embracing the Holidays after the Loss of a Loved One" a GriefShare event from 2:00 to 4:00 pm. November 14th is our every other month O.W.L.S. luncheon starting at 11:30. The 17th is Consecration Sunday, a re-evaluation of how we are all dedicating our prayers, presence, gifts, service, & witness to God. Saturday, November 23rd is our "Community Thanksgiving Dinner" that our area churches are hosting. On the 25th we'll have our ecumenical Thanksgiving worship service at the Presbyterian Church at 7:00. The 28th is officially "Thanksgiving Day" a time for food, family and friends and appreciating all that is...



Kelly Loftus,  
Congregational Care Coordinator

*As the harvest is taken in and the fields begin to look bare, gratitude fills my heart. Lord, in our worst of bad days we can be full of gratefulness. You are a Father of abundance and faithfulness. Thank you for our bountiful blessings. Teach us how to share and love one another. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.*

## NOVEMBER APPRECIATION HONOREES

November will honor those folks who have taken their time and talents to bless others through lawn, building and character care.

Thank you to all of the people in our church who mow, trim, spread salt and sand, shovel (yup-it is coming, like it or not) and improve aesthetics by building signs and cart/holders and other things that show we care. You folks are great, thanks for making a difference in how we look; you make a difference in how people feel for the good. Bless You All.

S.P.U.M.C. Williamsburg is truly...

# "A Place to Belong"

## OFFICE HOURS

### Mondays

8:00 AM - 3:00 PM

### Tuesdays

8:00 AM - 3:00 PM

### Wednesdays

By Appointment

### Thursdays

8:00 AM - 3:00 PM

### Fridays

By Appointment

## October Attendance

10/6 - 125    10/13 - 90

10/20 - 93    10/27 - 92

Prayer requests can be emailed to  
[office@stpaulsumcwilliamsburg.com](mailto:office@stpaulsumcwilliamsburg.com)

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**Music Director:** Noah Corneliuss

**Organist:** Sue Heitmann

**Custodian:** Melissa Savage

**Editor:** Shelley Berger  
Deadline for news for next month's  
newsletter is the 20th of the month.



**BUILDING FUND SUMMARY:**

Building Mortgage Balance: \$140,064.49

Building Fund Account Balance AVAILABLE: \$137,538.82

Which includes

- A bequest from Carol Uhlmann in the amount of \$67,623.69
- The remainder from the sale of the parsonage CD - \$32,999.87

Monthly Mortgage Payment Due: \$3,509.70

Thanks in part to Carol's wonderful bequest and the steadfast support from members of the congregation, the board has voted to use available funds from the building fund to pay off the mortgage in November, once a payoff is determined after the next round of electronic donations and the November loan payment. Carol advocated for a new building for SPUMC for many years and was on the committee to bring the idea to fruition. She helped raise funds and served on the finance committee to support God's vision and mission through St. Paul's. The board firmly believes using her generous bequest to help pay the mortgage is a very fitting way to honor her.

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**GENERAL FUND SUMMARY:**

CURRENT TOTAL BANK BALANCE AS OF October 30, 2024

\$177,723.77 which includes the following breakdown:

- \$ 40,000 (from the sale of the parsonage to be invested soon)
- \$3,836.35 from closure of Farmers Trust and Savings accounts
- \$16,443.97 in designated amounts such as memorials, scholarships, and specific donations.

This leaves \$117,443.45 available to cover general expenses.

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**YEAR TO DATE SUMMARY - January 1, 2024 to October 29, 2024 (44 weeks)**

Total offering received YTD: \$208,955.00 (\$4,749 average weekly offering)

Total expenses YTD: \$235,463.11 (\$5,351 average weekly expenses)

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**IOWA METHODIST FOUNDATION FUND**

(From Marilyn Tanner Memorial - This money is designated by the family for a future sanctuary)

3rd quarter Balance - \$111,127.65



# Surviving the Holidays



The holidays are challenging when you have lost a loved one.

## But there's Hope

Please join us for an afternoon event to provide encouragement, support, and valuable tools to navigate the holiday season.

**2-4PM ON TUESDAY, NOV. 12TH**

**COST: \$10.00**

RSVP to Kelly Loftus at  
[loftuskp23@gmail.com](mailto:loftuskp23@gmail.com)  
or call her at 319 560-5459

## HEALTHY LIVING FOR YOUR BRAIN AND BODY

TIPS FROM THE LATEST RESEARCH

An education program presented by the Alzheimer's Association®



For centuries, we've known that the health of the brain and the body are connected. But now, science is able to provide insights into how lifestyle choices may help you keep your brain and body healthy as you age.

Join us to learn about research in the areas of diet and nutrition, exercise, cognitive activity and social engagement, and use hands-on tools to help you incorporate these recommendations into a plan for healthy aging.

**Thursday, November 7  
12:00 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.**

**St. Paul's Methodist Church  
803 Clearview Drive  
Williamsburg, IA 52361**

**Please bring your own brown bag lunch.**

Visit [alz.org/CRF](http://alz.org/CRF) to explore additional education programs in your area.

**ALZHEIMER'S  
ASSOCIATION**  
Iowa Chapter

23185778



## Williamsburg churches invite you to the Community Thanksgiving Dinner

Saturday, November 23, 2024  
St. Paul's United Methodist Church  
803 Clearview Drive, Williamsburg

Call 319-668-2288 for  
reservations or scan the  
Sign Up Genius QR Code.



Seating is available at  
11:00 a.m., 11:45 a.m., and 12:30 p.m.  
Pick up and delivery  
are available upon request.  
A free will donation is requested.



SAFE HAVEN OF IOWA COUNTY  
PRESENTS



## Dancafe BREAKFAST

NOVEMBER 9th • 8:00-11:00AM

**\$10** INCLUDES **5<sup>and</sup> under**  
PER PLATE SAUSAGE, COFFEE & OJ FREE

PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT SAFE HAVEN  
OF IOWA COUNTY

ST PAULS METHODIST CHURCH 803 CLEARVIEW DRIVE WILLIAMSBURG  
[WWW.WESAPEPETS.COM](http://WWW.WESAPEPETS.COM)





We will remember our veterans on November 10th  
 Photos and service information may be sent to  
 Kelly Loftus, Congregational Care Coordinator,  
 at [loftuskp23@gmail.com](mailto:loftuskp23@gmail.com) or call 319-560-5459.



**Thursdays in November: 11/7 & 11/21**

Men's clothing, socks underwear, athletic shoes, and work boots are always in high demand. We are also in need of new or gently used sheets, bedding, and towels. **NO MORE SUMMER ITEMS**



**O.W.L.S.**  
 OLDER WISER  
 LIVELIER SOULS  
 SENIOR DINING  
 THURSDAY,  
 NOVEMBER 14TH  
 11:30 AM

*Thank you*  
 to everyone who shared  
 a little love with  
 Rev. Beth during  
 Pastor Appreciation Month



Keep an eye out for the L.O.V.E. Network tree this month. It will be located in the foyer of the church. Pause on the way to worship, select a tag that catches your interest, and follow the directions to make Christmas special for a household.



# Hello November

## Christmas Program 2024: "The Greatest News of All"



We are so excited to announce that this year's Christmas Program is called, "The Greatest News of All!"

As we have in the past, we are inviting all students Pre-K through 4th grade to participate in learning the music and being part of this wonderful tradition!

If you have a student that is interested in being part, music rehearsals will begin in Sunday School and during Epic Jr. in November. Your child is welcome to join us to learn these fun songs with us! We would love to have them join our "Angel Choir".

Performances will be December 15 at 8:30 and 10 am services. Contact: [spumc.childrens.ministry@gmail.com](mailto:spumc.childrens.ministry@gmail.com) with questions.

## Children & Family Ministries in Action



Hold on to instruction, do not let it go; guard it well, for it is your life. - Proverbs 4:13 NIV



# SPUMC Children & Family Ministries - November 2024



**Nov. 6th,  
Nov. 20th  
EPIC, Jr.  
3:30-5:00pm**

In November, our Epic, Jr. kids will begin a unit called "UNSUNG HEROES". Superheroes aren't heroic only when they feel like it— they're brave each and every day. The best heroes can even inspire the people around them to be brave, faithful, and hopeful in their own lives, too. Kids will learn more about what it looks like to see God as the hero of our story. They'll see how God gives them companions, opportunities, boldness, and hope so they can be heroes, too!

**Sunday  
School  
8:45-9:45am  
PK4-4th Grade**



At Christmas, gifts are all around us, but we know the holiday isn't about the toys—it's about the joy of Jesus' birth. We might experience joy from opening up gifts, but God gives us even greater joy through Jesus. In our kids will learn all about the joy Jesus brought into the world. In our "Joy Story" unit, kids will learn Jesus is the savior God promised, how God sent Jesus at the perfect time, that Jesus brings joy to the world, and what it means to say Jesus is God's greatest gift.

**Wednesdays:  
PB&J  
PreTeens  
6:30-7:30pm**



Christmas is one of those holidays that feels timeless. The traditions, music, and made-for-TV movies not only connect us, but also the other parts of our lives. It's a season that invites us to be nostalgic and think about memories from Christmases past. We will take a look at the Christmas story to see how something we may have heard long ago can still help us grow today. As we reflect on these classic stories, we'll remember how Christmas reminds us that Jesus is our Savior and that God can be trusted, to rely on each other, and to have faith that God is with us.



**Wednesdays:  
SPUMY  
7-12th grade  
6:30-7:30pm**

SPUMY continues to explore WWJD and the gospels through exciting games, deep discussions, service projects and more. A highlight of October was going to Highland Ridge and pumpkin painting!

SPUMY has a conversation evening with Pastor Beth planned each month, a lock in on November 2nd, many more learning opportunities, not to mention ongoing music lead by Molly, as they continue to challenge each other to really explore: What Would Jesus Do?

## Volunteers Needed

Our new year of programming is underway and we still could use a few more willing hearts and hands to step in to help us make things run smoothly and be encouraging for the children and youth who attend.

Sunday School and Epic Jr. both could use some more regular helping hands. Please email: [Spumc.Childrens.Ministry@gmail.com](mailto:Spumc.Childrens.Ministry@gmail.com) for details

## November EPIC Meals:

- **November 6th - Casey's Pizza, Salad, Desserts**
- **November 13th - chicken tenders, cheesy potatoes, salad, & dessert**
- **November 20th - Casey's pizza, salad, & dessert**
- **NO EPIC NOVEMBER 27th**

**A free-will donation will be collected at each meal. Please come join us for food, fellowship and church family, each Wednesday from 5:30-6:30pm**

**STAY  
CONNECTED**

[www.stpaulsumcwilliamsburg.com](http://www.stpaulsumcwilliamsburg.com)  
Facebook - @STPAULSUMC803  
<https://www.youtube.com/c/stpaulsumcwborg>



**St. Paul's Vision Statement:**

**...to be a church where you can S.E.E. (Serve. Experience. Embrace) Christ**

**NOVEMBER WORSHIP**

**November 3rd Holy Communion**

*All in the Great Cloud of Witnesses*

Hebrews 12:1-2, Revelation 21:1, John 11:32-44

**November 10th**

*Giving from Our Poverty & Abundance*

Mark 12:38-44



**November 17th**

*Provoke One Another to Love and Good Deeds*

Hebrews 10:11-14 (15-18), 19-25

**November 24th**

*So, You are a King?*

2 Samuel 23:1-7, John 18:33-37

*Heavenly Father, we come to you with gratitude for all of the blessings You've given us, especially our friends and family members, and for the nourishment you provide. Amen.*



St. Paul's United Methodist Church, Williamsburg, Iowa

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