

November
2021

The Samaritan

Worship Themes

November 7 -
Cycle of Blessings:
Time & Place /
All Saints Sunday

November 14 -
Cycle of Blessings:
Money

November 21 -
Gratitude Sunday /
Thanksgiving

November 28 -
1st Sunday of Advent



Hanging *of the* Greens

Hanging of the Greens Sunday, November 28 at 4:00 pm

Join us for a wonderful long-standing tradition at Good Samaritan! This is an indoor service where we decorate our sanctuary for the Christmas season.

Anyone who plays an instrument (young and old) is invited to join the Orchaband for Hanging of the Greens. This will happen on November 28th at 4:00 pm.

We will play during the service this year. We will rehearse at 3:15 pm. The music is in the reception area of the church office. We will be spaced apart a bit and wear masks when not playing. Questions: contact Sarah Kumagai at 952-944-2683.

Following this special indoor service, we'll bundle up to enjoy fellowship outside with s'mores!

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Pastor's Page



Throughout October, I've had the blessing of meeting quite a few of you in Meet & Greets, which are meetings intended to help us get to know one another a little better. Caroline Carlin, our Staff Parish Relations Chair, put out the invitation for people to host each gathering, and then created a sign-up sheet to coordinate attendance at them. I'm so grateful for Caroline, along with our willing hosts and all who came to these gatherings, as these events are such an important tradition for all of us when there is a pastoral change.

Some notable trends have emerged from our conversations together, so I thought you might like to hear about some of them:

- Many of you talked about the pastor who was here when you first came to Good Samaritan UMC...but even more of you talked about the influence and encouragement of someone who was not the pastor, and how that person helped you to feel welcomed and included.
- Some of you came to Good Samaritan UMC specifically because you already knew about our music department, our aim for social justice, our strong programming for all ages, or our values...and you mentioned important leaders by name (mostly congregation members, but also some staff members) because they exemplified living out these values within our community or made a difference in your faith journey.
- Many of you first visited Good Samaritan UMC because a friend or neighbor invited you, or alternately you were searching for a faith community after a big life event (a move, a marriage or divorce, a child, etc.)...and you've stayed because of the ongoing relationships you've enjoyed here.

In our Meet & Greets we also answered the following question: "God is calling this church to..." While it is clear that pain remains related to how staffing changes unfolded over the last year, the answers to this question mostly focused on reinventing ourselves, uniting, and for generally more active engagement, so we've got some work to do together on all this. That said, I think the one thing I want to encourage you with is this: the characteristics about Good Samaritan UMC summarized above have stood the test of time...they seem to be in our DNA! With all that is in our future (both known and unknown), these attributes are worth carrying forward with us. Indeed, our future relies on all of us engaging in this effort together.

Pastor Carol

One More Meet-and-Greet Opportunity

Did you miss joining Pastor Carol at one of the October Meet-and-Greet gatherings? We've added one more, held via Zoom for those who are not yet ready to join in person, so you can help us welcome Pastor Carol to our community. Sign up at the link below, and we'll send you the Zoom information for the event on November 4, 7-8 pm. If you need help with the sign-up, call Caroline Carlin at 612-619-8264.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A094DA4A92CA57-meet1>

Worship

Register for In-Person Worship

Everyone is welcome to attend in-person worship Sundays at 10:00 am. RSVP at <https://www.shelbygiving.com/App/Form/5dd5fbc7-a1c5-4401-a4b9-aa580f4e0453> . When you arrive, there is a table in the narthex for check-in. Pre-registering ensures your nametag is ready and waiting for you, while also making it easier for Kay to be back in touch with you in the event that contact tracing is needed. Nursery service is provided if requested during registration by Wednesday of any given week. Since people's schedules vary, please sign up for each week you wish to attend in person. Email dandy@good.org for assistance with the registration process. For those not ready to come in person, or who are traveling, our online worship services remain available on our Facebook page or at good.org/watch/sermons.

All Saints Sunday

Come together for in-person worship Sunday, November 7 at 10:00 am, as we remember those Saints who have gone on before us in the last year. This worship service also features a slide show in remembrance of these loved ones and a dedication of memorials, as well as Holy Communion.

Church Conference

A church conference for the purpose of setting Pastor Carol's 2022 salary will be held in person after worship on Sunday, November 21. We'll plan to begin this relatively short meeting at 11:00 am, and all are welcome to attend.

Special Music Event

Save the date!

Good Samaritan UMC
presents an evening of
Lessons and Carols
on Friday, December 10, 2021 at 7:30 pm.

A free will offering to support music ministries
will be gratefully accepted.

THINK

BEFORE YOU SPEAK

T is it **TRUE?**

H is it **HELPFUL?**

I is it **INSPIRING?**

N is it **NECESSARY?**

K is it **KIND?**

Congregational Care

Congregational Care Comment:

What is nourishing my spirit this season?

As I lean into what it means to care for the soul of this congregation, I feel continuously called to offer a multitude of resources that might prove to be nourishing for some or all of you. As a pathway towards that, here are some of the authors, speakers, and teachers who have been tending to my spirit this season:

Books:

No Cure for Being Human (And Other Truths I Need to Hear) by Kate Bowler

Ordinary Blessings: Prayers, Poems, and Meditations for Everyday Life by Meta Herrick Carlson

The Boy, the Mole, The Fox, and The Horse by Charlie Mackesy

Podcasts:

Everything Happens with Kate Bowler

Unlocking Us with Brene Brown

The Confessional with Nadia Bolz-Weber

Shows:

Modern Love on Amazon Prime

These are just a few of my recent touchstones. What about you? Perhaps this week you can take some time to share with a loved one something that has been nourishing you as of late.

Care Notes Available in the Narthex

CareNotes, a ministry of Saint Meinrad Archabbey, are concise booklets written to provide uplifting guidance to those who are hurting. They address real-life emotional, physical and spiritual needs with topics that include grief, aging, healthcare, mental wellness, family care, spiritual support and more. Looking for some words of wisdom to nourish you - mind, body and spirit - please explore these notes available in our narthex and take that which feels meant for you or for a loved one.

Nikki Holm (she/her), Board Certified Chaplain
Director of Congregational Care

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952-452-9396

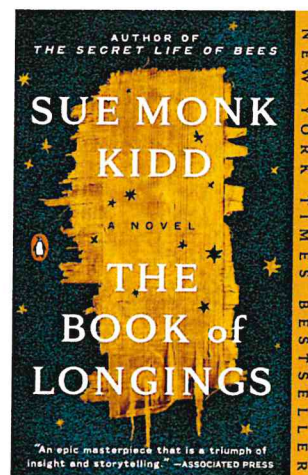
Office Hours (Part-time, 15hrs/week):
Wednesdays 9-4pm and variable (or by appointment) Tuesdays and Fridays



"REMEMBER. GOD IS IN YOU AS THE OCEAN IS IN THE WAVE. THERE IS NO POSSIBLE WAY IN WHICH THE WAVE CAN BE SEPARATED FROM THE OCEAN. AND THERE IS NO WAY IN WHICH YOU CAN BE SEPARATED FROM GOD. BECAUSE YOU ARE THE ACTIVITY OF GOD IN MANIFESTATION. THERE IS NO PLACE IN ALL THE WORLD WHERE YOU CAN GET CLOSER TO GOD THAN WHERE YOU ARE RIGHT NOW."

FROM *DISCOVER THE POWER WITHIN YOU* BY ERIC BUTTERWORTH

Book Group



The November Meeting of the Thursday Afternoon Book Group will be on November 11th at 1:00 pm in the Fireside Room. We will be discussing **The Book of Longings** by Sue Monk Kidd, a novel centering around Ana, the fictitious wife

of Jesus and the sister of Judas. Questions: Contact Vicki Dunn, victoria.dunn@q.com, 952-930-3431.

Congregational Care

Prayer for November

Gracious and loving God,

Surely, we each have much to be grateful for. For some of us it's our health, for others our relationships, our homes, our careers, experiences that inspire or excite us, practices that nourish or equip us, our freedom, safety, or sense of purpose. We may be grateful for sunrises or forests, the sound of ocean waves or the view of a starry night. Perhaps we are grateful for life itself and creation in its totality.

And yet, God, gratitude is a tricky thing, too often tied to shame and shoulds. Our sense that we "ought" to be grateful often inhibits us from also being human and real. So, God of life, this year we ask that you help us to be and feel and practice that which is most honest and true for us each, right here, right now.

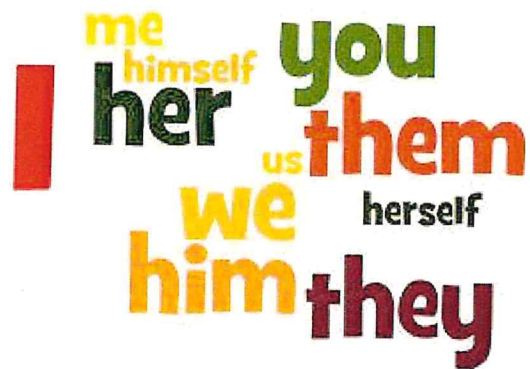
Let us be both grateful AND sad, or blessed AND afraid, or full of love AND full of anger and pain simultaneously, if that's the truth of our experience. Let our joy and our gratitude be deeply authentic and let our depletion, overwhelm, loneliness, or grief be met with compassion.

Through it all, God, remind us that we are held in and by your endless grace. Let us know what it is to experience a love that embraces us just as we are, where we are. Help us to offer such graces to one another. We pray all of these things in your holy name, Amen.

What's All This About Pronouns?

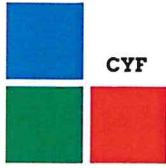
A pronoun is a word (such as he, she, you, we or they) that is used instead of a noun. Some of you have noticed and inquired about the pronouns identified in the email signatures of several staff members. Many of us are familiar with a binary construction of gender where he/him or she/her pronouns are the norm, but not everyone identifies with these pronouns. That's where gender-neutral pronouns come in, such as they/them/their, or ze/hir/hirs (pronounced "zee/here/heres") or ey/em/eir (pronounced "ay/em/airs"). Surveys suggest that as many as 25% of LGBTQ youth use pronouns such as they/them or a combination of he/they or she/they.

Asking and correctly using someone's pronouns shows respect. Using the wrong pronouns once you know someone's pronouns can make them feel invalidated, dismissed or



alienated. And fostering an environment where pronouns are identified so that people know what to use for individuals is important in creating an inclusive environment. It is also very helpful when interacting with people whose first names are less common, gender ambiguous, or from a culture you are not familiar with. Identifying and using pronouns may be uncomfortable at first, but it is an important step in providing the kind of hospitality and inclusivity Good Samaritan UMC is known for. ~Pastor Carol (she/her)

Children, Youth and Family Ministries



CHILDREN YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRIES

Jan M. Russell (she/her),
Director of Children, Youth
and Family Ministry

jan@good.org

952-452-9398



Bible Sunday was a success !

3 year olds - Lillian, Harrison, Hudson, and Ray
3rd graders - Hannah, Vivian, Luke, and Kayla
9th Graders - Norah, Luke, Phillip, Eleanor, Camille, Samantha, Allison, Elizabeth, Lauren, Lela, Molly, Kayden, and Sydney all received new Bibles

Good Samaritan Youth to host Serve MSP Pop Up Service Event

November 6th
2 to 4 pm

Good Sam youth will host 5 other congregations'



youth groups to pack Shoebox Christmas boxes for Spirit Lake Ministry Center in North Dakota. Brooklyn UMC will then transport the boxes to North Dakota. This is a great group effort for the Minnesota Annual Conference.

Important Dates through December

11-03	WILD Ones	6-7 pm
11-03	Jr High Youth Group	7:30-8:30 pm
11-06	Serve MSP Pop up Service Project Jr & Sr	2-4 pm
11-10	Confirmation	6-7 pm
11-10	Sr High Youth Group	7:30-8:30 pm
11-17	WILD Ones	6-7 pm
11-17	Jr High Youth Group	7:30-8:30 pm
11-24	Thanksgiving Week	No activities
11-28	Hanging of the Greens Family Event	4 pm
12-1	Confirmation	6-7 pm
12-1	Sr High Youth Group	7:30-8:30 pm
12-8	WILD Ones	6-7 pm
12-8	Jr High Youth Group	7:30-8:30 pm
12-15	Confirmation	6-7 pm
12-15	Sr High Youth Group - Cooking Class	7:30-8:30 pm
12-18	Family Christmas Pageant Rehearsal	2 pm
12-19	Family Christmas Pageant	10 am
12-24	Family Christmas Service	4 pm

Hanging of the Greens

Service will start at 4pm November 28th followed by s'more fellowship on our campus! A family favorite service in a whole new way!

Movie Night with the Reconciling Committee November 21st 6:30 pm

Jr and Sr High youth and their families are invited to attend a screening of "They Know Not What They Do" a 2019 Documentary. The run time is 90 minutes and then 1/2 hour of discussion.



Sr High Youth Group Dec 15th Cooking Class

We will learn how to cook Salsa Chicken and Cowboy Caviar. I need firm numbers so please sign up. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090A4AAEAA2CA31-srhigh>



Missions Team

COME SEE A POWERFUL FILM

on Sunday, November 21, 2021 at 6:30 pm!
Good Sam will be showing "**For They Know Not What They Do**", a powerful exploration of the intersection of religion, sexual orientation and gender identity in America. One evangelical church family was encouraged to put their son, Ryan, in conversion therapy; a life-long Presbyterian couple was shocked when their youngest boy came out to them as a transgender woman; a Catholic couple was greatly concerned about their gay son; and a mixed-race couple whose child endured self-harm before their parents' acceptance enabled them to come to terms with their gender.

Alongside these family stories of faith, rejection, validation, tragedy and triumph, the film weaves together unique perspectives from religious leaders. Through love, reconciliation, and acceptance, "For They Know Not What They Do" takes us on a journey of understanding what connects us all and gives us the courage to embrace each other.

This **90 minute film** is appropriate for all ages. After viewing it, stay for the **half hour discussion** afterwards. Masks and social distancing will be required. Sign up through our website.

Community Not Charity Learning Series

Simpson Housing is offering training called "Community Not Charity: Your Part in Creating Systemic Change". Breana Dorelus from Connecting the Cause is our speaker.

"Part 1: White Saviorism in Volunteering" on October 30th, 10 AM - Noon

During this first training we will discuss exactly where we've gone wrong in volunteerism, and how current service practices are harmful and go against true community-centered work. We will also share what it means to keep community at the center of service and the mindset changes it takes to get there.

"Part 2: Your Part in Creating Systemic Change" on November 13th, 10 AM - Noon

In this second training, we will take a deep dive into reshaping the future of volunteerism and what it will take to get us there. We'll tackle the systemic changes necessary to continue the work outside of formal volunteering while also taking accountability for each of our parts in creating a more just nonprofit sector. Reflections, along with practical application.

Register with Christina Giese at cgiese@simpsonhousing.org

Once registered, a separate email will be sent containing the Zoom links for the trainings for which you signed up.

YOUR MISSION TEAM AT WORK

PLEASE JOIN US! No skills required – just a good heart!

Just contact either Co-Chair: Pat Deckas Becerra at 952-929-1428 or Brian Boysen at 952-937-0624 for more information. Your support is much appreciated!

We distributed almost \$15,000 in October to various charitable endeavors. This includes \$2,000 for educational ones like the ABC, the Wesley Foundation, and Joyce Preschool; \$2,500 for alleviating food insecurity with groups like Feed My Starving Children, the Joyce Food Shelf, Meals on Wheels, and VEAP; \$5,000 for helping with housing security with groups like Beacon, Emma Norton (Woman's shelter), Hearts and Hammers, and Simpson Housing (for Afghan refugees); and UMCOR (relief for Hurricane Ida); \$5,500 for local families and children we're helping individually after they're vetted by a social worker.

Missions Team

JOYCE PRESCHOOL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



Started in 1966, Joyce became the first bilingual school (Spanish and English) in Minneapolis. Good Sam has volunteered there for decades.

Volunteers are needed to paint their front office and two staff offices.

On Friday, Dec. 3, four volunteers are needed to pack food that goes to many of those families. There are 3 different times: 11:00-1:00, 1:00-3:00, or 11:00-3:00. If you can help, please contact Jane Heimerl at 952-933-6628 or email jane.heimerl@yahoo.com.

CHECK OUT the BEACON INTERFAITH HOUSING COLLABORATIVE – their website is <https://>



www.beaconinterfaith.org/

Good Sam is involved in four of their many programs:

1. Have an extra musical instrument for the youth at 66 West in Edina? Beacon is now collecting used musical instruments for them. 66 WEST is one of the 21 buildings in the metro, with 660 homes (apartments) that Beacon has created. Good Sam has really supported this one for homeless youth.

2. Beacon's BRING IT HOME MN is their legislative work to secure money for affordable housing, rent subsidies, and rent stabilization! They've accomplished much but they're still really pushing to get it passed this coming year. We need to promote support with our legislators.

3. Want to help poor people with their housing? – . MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD on November 1 - only 30 minutes! On the first of every month, Beacon hosts a **RENT IS DUE** Zoom session at 8:30 am to give us a 15-minute update on their affordable housing efforts, and then the last 15-minutes is when we all do their Action Steps which is contacting our Minnesota politicians. They give you a script to say over the phone and/or to write in an email regarding a special issue, plus the links to those people, so it is really EASY. Check their website for the link.

4. Beacon's FAMILIES MOVING FORWARD program is in transition because of Covid so families aren't being housed in churches right now. Good Sam has been involved with this program for years but we need co-chairs to organize our involvement. It would be very little work since FMF is just providing meals to families housed in hotels.

Feed My Starving Children

The date for November is Wednesday, the 10th. We are packing food at the Chanhassen site from 9:00-11:00. If you would like to participate, please call Jane Heimerl by Mon., the 8th at 952-933-6628 or email jane.heimerl@yahoo.com.

Trustees

Maintenance Minute



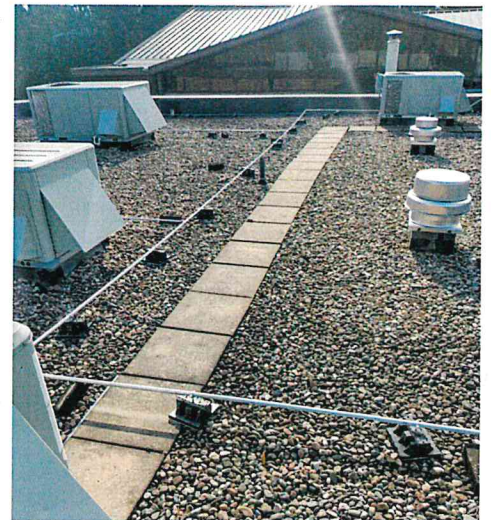
It is that time of year again where we will be turning on the boilers here at Good Sam. Luckily Good Sam has some pretty high efficient boilers that have had zero problems since being installed brand new 7 years ago. We have 2 total. One would be enough to heat the building but when boilers are installed it is always a good thing to have that back up just in case there is an issue



Dan Rogers-Green
(he/him)
Building Engineer
danrg@good.org
612-889-4015

with one. It takes a special boiler license to be the boiler operator in a commercial building. Each day the boilers have to have pressures logged and certain components tested daily/weekly/monthly and yearly, to make sure of safe operation.

Here is a picture of our new gas lines that were installed on our roof. This is just the portion over the nursery. We went from copper to a much stronger galvanized steel. This needed to be done because ice dams were bending the copper pipes. It was a situation that could have become serious if the pipes had ever fully given out and snapped.



Finances

Good Sam Financial Update

Below is the latest update of the Church Operating Finances, through September 2021.

	Sept 2021	YTD	Budget YTD
Income	\$ 27,545	\$487,582	\$558,684
Expense	\$ 52,165	\$472,874	\$549,899
Net	\$ (24,620)	\$ 14,708	\$ 8,785

The Finance committee thanks everyone who has supported our church through these unprecedented times! If you would like to contribute, mail to the church office or give online <https://good.org/give/give-gift/>

Stewardship

Please watch your mailboxes! Stewardship letters containing pledge cards will be mailed early in November.

We're aiming for a stronger, healthier future, and can get there with your participation, commitment and support.



Good Samaritan United Methodist Church
5730 Grove Street
Edina, MN 55436
good.org

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage
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Twin Cities, MN
Permit No. 2518

Return Service Requested

Time Dated Material



OUR VISION

INSPIRING
Joyful Faith

BUILDING
a Loving
Community

SERVING
Neighbors Near
and Far

WORSHIP AT GOOD SAMARITAN

- | | |
|---|--|
| Sunday Service | 10am (In-Person and Online) |
| Nursery | Infants - Age 3 (by reservation) |
| Children and Youth Sunday School | All ages Sunday School after Children's Time |

GOOD SAMARITAN OFFICE

- | | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Mon-Thurs
Phone | 9am - 4pm
(952) 929-0049
(Note: phones are generally staffed
Tuesday & Wednesday from 9am-1pm) |
|----------------------------|---|