

January
2022

The Samaritan

Worship Themes

Jan. 2 - Wesley's
Covenant Renewal
Service/Epiphany/
Communion

Jan. 9 - What is
Forgiveness?

Jan. 16 - Why Forgive?

Jan. 23 - Steps to
Forgiveness

Jan. 30 - Forgiving and
Remembering



Worship In Action

On Sunday, December 26, we gathered at 10:00 am for "Worship in Action," a Sunday morning filled with opportunities to put our faith in action. We made 200 meat/cheese sandwiches for the Dignity Center, which "welcomes and supports people living in poverty on their path to stability." After receiving a warm meal, guests leave with a sandwich in their pocket to eat later. We also created cards to send to our homebound members, Good Sam kids, and to include in young adult care packages. A good time was had by all.



OUR STAFF

Rev. Carol Zaagsma

Lead Pastor
carol@good.org
952-452-9395

Nikki Holm

Director of Congregational
Care
nikki@good.org
952-452-9396

Jan Russell

Director of Children, Youth
and Family Ministries
jan@good.org
952-452-9398

Mary Beth Berg

Organist/Accompanist
marybeth@good.org

Paolo Debuque

Chancel Choir Director
paolo@good.org

Paul McKenzie

Chancel Chimes Director
paul@good.org

Christian Nielsen

Coordinator of Worship Arts
and Online Engagement
christian@good.org

Brad Carlin

Homeward Bound Director
bradleypcarlin@gmail.com

Kay Turner

Office Manager
kay@good.org
952-452-9393

Richard Musser

Financial Secretary
rhm@good.org
952-452-9394

Dan Green

Building Engineer
danrg@good.org
612-889-4015

Dandy Lewis

Media Specialist
dandy@good.org

Good Samaritan UMC

Office: 952-929-0049

Pastor's Page



I've heard many people say that as hard as 2020 was, 2021 was even harder. I certainly feel that way. Honestly, it's times like this when I'm particularly grateful for a fresh start; and the arrival of a new year provides a natural opportunity for this.

And yet the attempt at a fresh start won't happen magically with the turning of a page on the calendar - it will require some intentional effort. Peg Streep wrote an article with a helpful list of steps to take toward a fresh start:

- 1) Manage your regrets. Write them down. Look at them. Evaluate whether they come from action or inaction. And offer some measure of forgiveness for yourself when trying to put them into perspective.
- 2) Deal with your rumination. Take steps to get off your carousel of repetitive thoughts. Make an effort to talk with others about your worries, after which you set them aside for awhile.
- 3) Think about new goals in abstract terms. Move toward a more nuanced understanding of your wants and needs. Instead of a goal to lose weight, make a goal to live a healthier lifestyle - then you can make choices from there rather than riding a roller coaster with each pound gained or lost.
- 4) Adopt the right mindset. A deliberative mindset helps you weigh your choices and strategies while an implemental mindset helps you focus on your actions. Be flexible enough to shift between the two and adjust to how God's Spirit is working.
- 5) Motivate yourself. Be creative about this. Also remember that you are a child of God and worthy of fresh starts in life. God is a God of fresh starts!

Of course, there are many different aspects of life one might want a fresh start at - a relationship, a job or career, a hobby or leisure activity, healthy living, spirituality, or any number of other areas of life.

John Wesley is known for having said, "The best of all is, God is with us!" No matter what your fresh start looks like in this new year, or how much you're ready to put the last year behind you, please remember that: "The best of all is, God is with us!" Let's walk into 2022 with this truth firmly in our hearts.

Pastor Carol

Worship

There are 12 days of Christmas, so the season continues with our rescheduled Lessons and Carols. We hope you can join us for an evening of beautiful music.

GOOD SAMARITAN UMC PRESENTS

an evening of

LESSONS AND CAROLS



Warmth, fellowship, and music

Free will offering accepted.
Proceeds go to Good Samaritan music ministries.

7:30pm · Saturday · January 8, 2022

Register for In-Person Worship

Everyone is welcome to attend in-person worship Sundays at 10:00 am. We now are able to seat more than 100 people in our sanctuary at one time due to some slight adjustments to the seating configuration. Pre-registering is not required, but it does make the check-in process go much quicker for you. Register [at https://www.shelbygiving.com/App/Form/5dd5fbc7-a1c5-4401-a4b9-aa580f4e0453](https://www.shelbygiving.com/App/Form/5dd5fbc7-a1c5-4401-a4b9-aa580f4e0453) . Nursery service is provided if requested during registration by Wednesday of any given week. Since people's schedules vary, please sign up each week you wish to attend in-person. Email dandy@good.org for assistance with the registration process. We're in-person in the sanctuary and online with pre-recorded worship at 10:00 am, so either way, we hope to see you soon!

Congregational Care

Congregational Care Comment:

At the end of December, we wrapped up a 10-week, Remembering Your Story small group that I have been blessed to witness and facilitate. During this time together, we have laughed, we have cried, we have reviewed and shared some of our most favorite and our most difficult memories and stories with compassion and tenderness. We have held one another in mutual regard, building a container of trust, safety, openness, empathy, and grace. What a gift it has been to get to know some of you to such a greater depth. Indeed, what a gift it is to get to know any of our brothers or sisters to such a depth.



Isn't that the hope and the aim of the church at large? To be a safe container which holds the people and stories inside with the utmost respect, love, and care? Throughout this Advent, we explored the invitation to "House the Holy" in small and large ways. We too are that holy. When we create time and space to shelter one another's presence, one another's fullness and imperfection, we are indeed housing the holy.

In order to truly house the holy we have to see, know, and remember the sacred for what it is. Each of us, each of you, as you enter into Good Sam virtually or in person, you are the sacred. You are the holy. Just as I have been blessed to experience with the select few of you who chose to participate in the Remembering Your Story community this Fall, I hope that as a congregation at large we can continue to see, support, and shelter, the sacred offering that is one another for days and years to come.

Caring Ministry - Update & Meeting

Our caring ministry committee continues to support the congregation in many ways including by sending cards and notes, calling and visiting with people, and supporting our funeral and grief ministry. If you are interested in learning more about this committee, feel free to attend our next meeting as we look to explore how we can continue to support Good Sam in the coming year.

Meeting information is as follows:

Topic: Caring Ministry Committee

Time: Jan 5, 2022 11:00 AM -12:00 PM Central Time

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83409722629?pwd=R2FoNOVLdFl6K2VsYmhhxb3Nrb2ZrQT09>

Meeting ID: 834 0972 2629

Passcode: care

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

nikki@good.org

952-452-9396

Office Hours (Part-time, 15hrs/week):

**Wednesdays 9-4pm and variable (or by
appointment) Tuesdays and Fridays**



Congregational Care

Prayer for January

Gracious and loving God,

The busyness, excitement, movement, and expectation of another season of lights has come and gone. For some of us, this is a welcome reprieve as we return to quieter, slower days. For others, there is a twinge of sadness and longing as we say goodbye to Christmas and all that comes with it. God of presence, in the wake of such things, be with us just as we are, however we are.

Spirit of hope, with each new year comes new possibilities, new dreams, new plans, and new fears. As we reflect on another year having come and gone, we may do so with gratitude or regret or both simultaneously. Help our appraisals to be honest, compassionate, and insightful. Teach us to look to the future with integrity, grace, wisdom, and intention. Guide our footsteps, our decisions, our hearts, our voices, as we lean into whatever this year has in store for us.

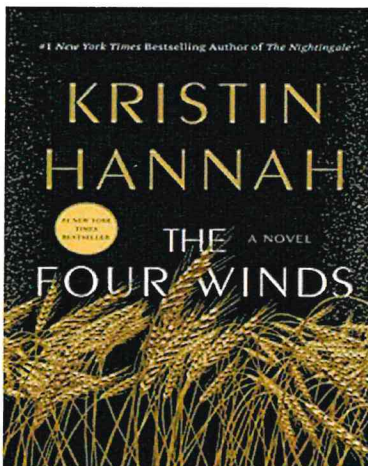
God of change, if we choose to make new resolutions this year, help us to do so out of alignment with the truest, most beautiful parts of ourselves. Help such commitments not be motivated by shame or guilt but rather by our deepest intentions to be our very best selves and live our most purposeful, love-filled lives. Help us to be discerning, flexible, bold, and courageous. Help us to be motivated by that which is most life-giving for us and those we hold most dear.

God of all, let this season be one of healing, recovery, clarity, and comfort for us all. As always, lead us to do our part in making it so.

We pray all of these things in your holy name, Amen.

Thursday Afternoon Book Group

Our first meeting of 2022 will be on January 13 at 1:00 in the Fireside Room. Our discussion title is **The Four Winds** by Kristin Hannah, a riveting story of the Dust Bowl migration of the 1930's. Contact Vicki Dunn for more information.



Monthly Caregiver Support Group: Starting January 19, 2022

Many people in our community know the meaningful, love-filled, difficult, and often lonely journey of accompanying a loved one amidst mental or physical illness of varying degrees. As you pour yourselves out to care for your loved ones, we want you to have a safe place to come together to restore, refill, and receive support yourselves. Join us on the 3rd Wednesday evening of each month from 6:00-7:00pm starting on January 19, 2022 in person at Good Sam. Childcare will be provided for those attendees in need of it; requests for childcare must be made a week in advance. Contact Nikki with questions or to express interest in participating. Interested in attending a virtual caregivers support group instead? Email Nikki to be put on a list to explore a different date and time for such later in 2022.

Children, Youth and Family Ministries



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

jan@good.org
952-452-9398



ALL PARENT MEETING January 12 @ 7pm Childcare provided.

With the availability of the vaccines for our 5 year olds and up, Pastor Carol and Jan would like to discuss programing for 2022 with parents of all kids ages 0 to 18. We will be looking at Nursery, Sunday School, Wednesday programing, Youth Groups as well as Summer options. We are excited to start moving "back to normal."



We love our 18 to 22 year olds.

We sent a dozen care packages to our Good Sam young adults, just in time for finals week the second week of December.

Medical Leave

Jan will be out on medical leave from January 17 - February 28. Pastor Carol will be leading confirmation classes during this time, and we are looking for a few Sunday School teachers to help on Sunday mornings during worship.



STEP Gift Tree

We collected 9 bags of gifts for 0 to 8 year olds for the STEP giving tree!

Helping Libraries

Jan and Nikki are working putting together book collections to help you and your kiddos with some big topics. The vision is that a collection of books will be in a bag that families can check out. The topics we are working on are:

Adoption	Anger
Adding a new sibling	Anxiety
Big Feelings	Bullying
Fear	Loss
Mindfulness	Social Justice

If there are topics you would like us to cover, just send Jan an email.
jan@good.com



Christmas Pageant "Room at the Inn"

Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC)

Long-Term Staffing for Our Good Samaritan Office

In 2019, when Joanie Webster left the office manager position and Helen McEvoy-Freese retired as our accounting manager, we chose to hire temporary staff to remain flexible, as we thought carefully about what our long-term needs would be. Pandemic-related changes meant that we never had a chance to implement those plans. Now that we have re-opened to in-person worship and greater building use, it is time to think about long-term staffing. We have been greatly blessed with the support of Kay Turner as Office Manager and Dick Musser as Bookkeeper. These two members of our Good Samaritan team have been competent, cheerful, flexible and patient in their ongoing temporary roles, and have provided important continuity through the changes for more than two years. Plans to recognize Kay and Dick for their service will be announced at a later date.

We are now ready to post these two positions as permanent, part-time positions. We will be posting positions for an Office Manager (20 hours per week) and a Bookkeeper (12 hours per week). If you know of anyone that might be interested in working in one of these roles, please let us know! Word of mouth is one of our best recruiting tools.

Caroline Carlin
SPRC Chair

Bell Choir Update

Paul McKenzie, Bell Choir Director, has a wonderful opportunity to spend six months on the Scottish island of Iona as a volunteer at the historical Abbey Church. Because of this, he has submitted his resignation effective 1/21/2022. While we are sad to see him go, this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for Paul, and we are delighted for him.

SPRC will post the director position shortly, with the goal to fill the position before Paul's departure.

Please congratulate Paul and wish him well. The Bell Choir and SPRC thank him for his contribution during his time at Good Samaritan UMC.

Sheryl Leill
Bell Choir Member
SPRC

Missions Team

THANK YOU for your generosity!

The Missions Team delivered a house full of your donated furnishings, including beds, for a new refugee family of 13 people! They arrived here from Myanmar (formerly Burma) and had never seen snow before! They were overwhelmed with all of our help - especially the 10 beds, sheets, blankets, dishes, etc. we brought them in our trailer! Families from Afghanistan will soon be settling in Minnesota, so contact either co-chair, Pat Deckas Becerra or Brian Boysen if you are available to help welcome them here by giving things that every home needs.

Feed My Starving Children

FMSC packing date is Wed., Jan. 12 and date to notify me by is Mon., Jan. 10. 952-933-6628 or jane.heimerl@yahoo.com



Foundation Board

The Good Samaritan Foundation Board met on November 18, 2021 for their final meeting of 2021. Throughout the year each fund maintained net gains from the January 1, 2021 balances. That includes grant awards from The Outreach Fund (\$14,095), withdrawal from The Cornerstone Fund by the Trustees for replacement of sidewalk cement (\$5150), and The Evergreen Fund annual withdrawal by the Finance committee (\$8000).

Fund balances as of 11/30/2021:

Outreach Fund	\$295,179
Cornerstone Fund	\$35,603
Evergreen Fund	<u>\$170,261</u>
Total	\$501,043

The Investment Committee continues to meet regularly to monitor the funds and adjust investments as they think is necessary.

The full allotment for the Outreach Fund for 2021 was \$14,000. Grants awarded were:

- The Food Group, in support of food shelves - \$3000
- Brooklyn UMC, in support of community services - \$1000
- Dakota-Minnesota Camps – camping for MN UMC children and youth \$3000
- UMCOR in support of Global Ministries to Haiti - \$4000
- Richard Ormsby School, Baiwalla, Sierra Leone, Science lab - \$3095

The Foundation Board is happy to welcome two new members to the Board – Sam Verduci and Pat Deckas-Becerra. We are looking for one additional new member.

Would you like to serve on the Foundation Board? Qualifications: be a member of Good Samaritan UMC with a desire to make a positive impact in our local, national and global communities by awarding grants to worthy organizations. We monitor all three Foundation funds – we do not do the investing. We meet four times per year, typically the third Thursday of February, May, August, and November. At this time, we are looking for one person to join the Board beginning January 2022. If you are interested please contact Claudia Boysen at claudialboysen@gmail.com

Trustees

Maintenance Minute

It is that time of year again with the cold weather and snow and of course the not-so-fun aspect of slippery roads, walkways and parking lots. We often turn to road salt to take care of these slippery issues. At Good Sam we have been practicing smart salting techniques to reduce our salt use. This means the equipment we have that lays salt is properly calibrated each year to make sure we are using just the right amount to keep everyone safe all while protecting the near by water ways as best we can. Did you know: one teaspoon of salt is enough to pollute 5 gallons of water! That will stay in our waterways for years and years. Salt pollution also harms plants, animals and our drinking water. In Minnesota's urban areas it isn't uncommon to find salt pollution in our ground water, and many lakes and streams have too much salt to be healthy.



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

If you use salt on your walk ways and driveways you can practice smart salting techniques as well. 1. Shovel the snow as soon as you can to prevent it to ice up, and apply salt only when needed. 2. Salt doesn't melt ice below 15 degrees, so use sand if it is colder than that. 3. Make sure to use a good scatter pattern. Try to allow 3 inches between salt granules. 4. After a snow event and everything is dry, sweep up any excess salt, sand and de-icer to save and reuse as needed. Remember, more salt does not mean more melting. Go to ninemilecreek.org to see more info on how you can be a smart salter. Feel free to ask me any questions on this topic as well. We can all do our part to keep walkways and roadways safe all while using less salt!

Good Samaritan UMC is SALT SMART

We are using less salt this winter to protect clean water

How are we doing this?

- We shovel sidewalks before snow turns to ice and use salt only if needed.
- We select the right tool. Salt doesn't melt ice below 15°F, but sand can give traction.
- We scatter thinly, aiming for 3 inches between salt granules.
- We sweep up leftover salt and sand and reuse it.

Did you know? Everything that goes down a stormdrain ends up in a nearby lake, creek, or wetland. That includes salt and salty melted ice and snow, which pollute clean water.

Help us! Do your part to protect clean water:

- Walk slowly
- Wear sturdy shoes
- Use less salt at home

sfmic.com

Penguin shuffle
focus on your footing

WINTER

WARNING Icy Conditions

SFM
The Work Comp. Experts

sfmic.com

Bible Study

The Tuesday Morning Bible Study recently concluded their most recent study on Marcus Borg's book *Convictions*, led by Larry and Mary Ellen Nielsen. The class has prepared a few comments about the study to share in this month's newsletter. Please enjoy them below.

All are welcome to participate in Bible Study. On January 11, 2022, from 9:30-11:30 am, we will begin our next study: a 7-week series using the book *Dialogues on Race* by Broderick Greer. This book is readily available used and new, so grab a copy and join us! For further information, please contact Christina Leenders or Carol Smith.



I thoroughly enjoyed our reading and discussions of Convictions, by Marcus Borg. Borg was a homegrown contemporary Lutheran theologian who wrote numerous books. In Convictions, he reflected on his life, and the evolutions of his beliefs, from childhood to mature adulthood. This provided food for fruitful discussion at the Tuesday Morning Bible Study. This study was expertly led by Mary Ellen and Larry Nielsen. In the very last chapter I came across one of the stumbling blocks in my faith. I have always loved the Good Samaritan motto "More joy than guilt", because two contradictory messages have always worried me. The one I prefer is: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength". The one I worry about is: "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom". What am I supposed to do, love or fear? Raised in a bit more conservative church and home, the implied would be that God's love for me is based on whether I measure up. In his book, Marcus Borg explains that the word fear should actually be translated as "awe", "wonder" or "amazement". That resonated with me and put my mind at ease. Amazement works well for me because I am constantly amazed in my every day life in the things I see every day: the power in a seed to grow, in the ability of the body to heal, in the love of family and friends, in the coming and going of the seasons. Amazement in miracle upon miracle, even in the ability in all of us during these times of COVID to persist, to love and gather again with friends and family and at our beloved Good Samaritan church, and to build new things, new relationship, and new community. I see God in all of that, and I'm going with Marcus on this one, and LOVE is in all of it
~Carol Smith

My comment on Borg's book is that it gave me new insight into questions I have had when I read something in the Bible that I don't agree with. I've previously tossed it off as something being lost in the many translations to the Bible. But Borg said the Bible was made for the people of that time, that there weren't any other references to what was going on then. This means, course, that now a couple thousand years later we are in a very different world than that primitive world, without all of the scientific happenings since that time. So this perspective now helps me better figure it out. Then, secondly, I loved Borg's saying Jesus only taught through parables, and that parables told a story, that the actual people perhaps didn't even exist. This is helpful to me, as I always have had a hard time with some of the parables, as an example the prodigal son, as my value system said he blew it big time and that his father should have pointed out the errors of his ways. And, too, I would be that other brother who did everything right and might have been miffed! But, when you know that the story this parable tells is of a God who is all loving and forgiving, well that rather changes the dynamics and makes a lot of sense.

So these are my two thoughts that pop out in Borg's book. I thought his entire book most interesting, as it told the story of how his faith evolved, in a very honest, thoughtful way. A younger theologian might not get away with this candid assessment. And, course, its always nice when people agree with you!!

~Joanie Goehl

Bible Study

In reading *Convictions* by Marcus Borg with Mary Ellen and Larry Nielsen's helpful leadership, I was able to gain understanding of why and how I have grown in my faith and beliefs. One important idea near the end of the book (212) was Borg's discussion of a basic question, "Do you love God?" The answer is yes, definitely. However, Borg went on to describe that "though believing in God and loving God can sometimes go together, they are not the same." He then posed, "What does it mean to love God?" With my faith, I say thank you to God often because of my belief in God, but I hadn't thought about saying to God, "I love you, God, just because you are."

I recommend this rich book and any lessons taught by the Niensens! ~Lynn Timmer

Convictions, like other Borg books is so "readable." He presents theology in a way that is thought provoking but understandable – without a degree in philosophy. ~Sue Shaw

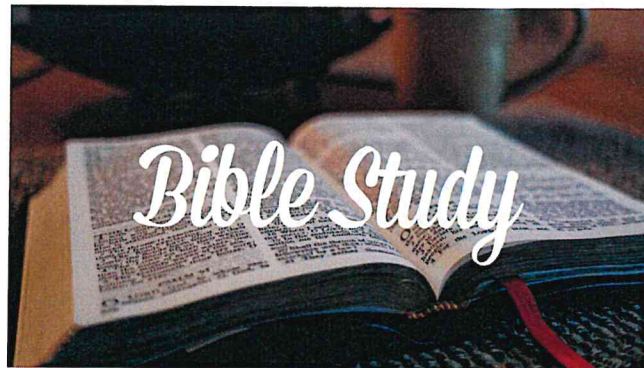
Marcus Borg is a favorite! We have read and enjoyed many of his books over the years. We resonate well with his Minnesota, Scandinavian, Protestant background, and his progressive theology affirms many of our long-held beliefs. Never "preachy" or self-righteous, his final book, "CONVICTIONS", is a well-written summary of his life-long journey in faith. Borg's language is clear, logical, easy to understand, and helps us to better articulate what we believe, and why. ~Don & Nancy Amren

Marcus Borg articulately puts in words the theology I believe in but couldn't articulate as well as he. It is the theology that initially drew me to Good Samaritan. It is the theology that keeps me at Good Samaritan.

I also believe it is the theology that will ensure the future viability of Christianity in the United States. The difference in Borg's theology and the theology of the conservative-fundamentalists is their insistence on belief in and acceptance of tenets that people who believe in science cannot accept: Virgin birth, bodily ascension into heaven, Lazarus arising after several days dead, and the like.

Mary Ellen and Larry bring a depth and breadth of knowledge and experience that makes these get togethers very special indeed. ~Dave Knutson

Reading Borg, I was first struck by how similar our growing up years were – his in Minnesota, mine in South Dakota. I was then surprised at how my simple, humble spiritual evolution echoed elements of his much more erudite, theological journey. His writing and our group study discussions affirmed and deepened my understanding of my own beliefs – some of which I had previously felt might be too liberal or outside accepted church teaching. ~Steve Schultz





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

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

Return Service Requested

Time Dated Material



WORSHIP AT GOOD SAMARITAN

- Sunday Service** 10am (In-Person and Online)
- Nursery** Infants - Age 3 (by reservation)
- Children and Youth Sunday School** Postponed at present due to pandemic. As vaccines take full effect and families are ready to return, Sunday School will resume.

OUR VISION

INSPIRING
 Joyful Faith

BUILDING
 a Loving
 Community

SERVING
 Neighbors Near
 and Far

GOOD SAMARITAN OFFICE

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