

March
2022

The Samaritan

Worship Themes

Note: The overarching theme for our Lenten Series is "Journey Through Seven Paths," which has us contemplating our relationship with God through the lens of theologians through the ages.

March 2 @ 7:00 pm -
Ash Wednesday -
"Right Ordering of Love
for God"

March 6 -
Communion / "Spiritual
Life as Journey"

March 13 - "Recovery
of Knowledge of God
Lost in the Fall"

March 20 - "Intimacy
with Jesus Christ"

March 27 - "Right
Ordering of our
Experiences of God"

 **GOOD
SAMARITAN**

"Put Away the Tinsel"

By Ann Weems

When Lent comes,
you have to put away the tinsel;
you have to take down your Christmas tree,
and stand out in the open...vulnerable.
You either are or you aren't.
You either believe or you don't.
You either will or you won't.
And, O Lord, how we love the stable and the star!
When Lent comes the angels' voices
begin their lamenting,
and we find ourselves in a courtyard
where we must answer
whether we know him or not.



OUR STAFF

Rev. Carol Zaagsma

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

Nikki Holm

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

Jan Russell

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

Christian Nielsen

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

Paolo Debuque

Chancel Choir Director &
Music Coordinator
paolo@good.org

Mary Beth Berg

Organist/Accompanist
marybeth@good.org

Kate Graber

Chancel Chimes Director
kate@good.org

Brad Carlin

Homeward Bound Director
bradleycarlin@gmail.com

Kay Turner

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

Cindy Bergstrom

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

Kim Hill

Bookkeeper
kim@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

Worship Announcement

All throughout the pandemic, your leadership team and I have taken great care to follow the guidelines by the CDC, the MN Department of Health, and the Minnesota Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. We also have a comprehensive and contextualized plan to consult that was created by some of our own members for our congregation.

After much discernment and research, our Chancel Choir Director, Paolo Debuque, and I prepared a proposal for Church Council to consider regarding our current pandemic protocols. After careful consideration, the Church Council affirmed the following proposed changes:

- Effective the first Sunday of March, the Chancel Choir may begin singing again live during Sunday morning in-person worship. The congregation will continue to wear face masks inside the building for now (cloth or surgical masks are fine), and as an additional safety precaution, the choir will wear N95 or KN95 masks.
- Hymnals will return to the pews and the congregation will be encouraged to sing hymns instead of humming along with the melody.



These changes have been much anticipated, and we're excited for them to arrive. Come and join us for in-person worship March 6 as we celebrate the Chancel Choir's return. It's also the first Sunday of Lent, and we'll receive communion. All are welcome at Good Samaritan UMC, and I hope to see you soon.

Pastor Carol

Ash Wednesday Worship Wednesday, March 2 @ 7:00 pm

Begin your Lenten journey by attending Ash Wednesday worship. In-person worship will include the imposition of ashes. The online prerecording will offer a short devotional for the day, and may be accessed on our Facebook page or at www.good.org.

Ash Wednesday emphasizes two themes: our sinfulness before God and our human mortality. Ashes refers to Genesis 3:19 where God tells the first human beings that "you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

Sing with the Chancel Choir for our Easter Program!

We're beginning to rehearse music for Easter Sunday, so consider joining the choir for this short commitment.

Our repertoire is *Five Mystical Songs* by Ralph Vaughan Williams, *Rise Up, My Love* by Healey Willan, and *Love Brought Me Back!* By Mark Miller.

Rehearsals begin Wednesday, March 2, while Easter Sunday worship is at both 8:30 am and 11:00 am. Please contact Paolo@good.org for more info.

Worship

Digital Campus Update

Words attributed to our founder John Wesley remind us to "Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can."

In Matthew 28:19, as part of the Great Commission, Jesus gave the commandment to go into the world and "make disciples," and led by going into places others might fear to go. The Apostle Paul, and later the Methodist Circuit riders, travelled to new places to build communities of faith.

As we move beyond the pandemic and into the future, it's clear that what it means to be church has changed. Covid-19 may have accelerated trends toward fewer people coming into a church building to worship, but it's also given us an opportunity and a charge to reach out far beyond our walls and connect with people where they are.

Through our Facebook page and website, our worship services and content are viewed hundreds of times each week. Beyond our immediate area, our worship is viewed in places like greater Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin, Colorado, Massachusetts, Florida, California, Illinois, and we even have regular viewers in the Philippines! An elder member of our community living in Spokane, WA, has reconnected to our church through online worship. Many Sundays, her daughter comes to her home, and they worship together with us.

We're seeing people signing up for discussion groups who've found us online and are new to our church. We have members of the LGBTQ community who live in places where they don't have access to an accepting congregation, who find us to be a safe and sacred space. We have people watching who aren't physically able to get out. Sometimes they watch worship more than once. People with busy schedules are choosing the option to worship when it works for them. Still others supplement their church going elsewhere by viewing our services.

Our dedicated, produced worship services offer a more personal and reflective experience than livestreamed worship services, where the online viewer is often more of an afterthought, and production values are often quite low. While our online service is an important offering, we're also mindful that church is about more than weekly worship. In upcoming newsletters, I'll talk about how and why our online second service is different from in-person worship, and things we're working on to expand our ability to connect in the online realm.

It is a great honor to do this work with all of you as we continue taking bold steps into the future of 21st Century church, in our ongoing mission to seek out and build new spaces: to do all the good we can, in all the places, times, means, and ways we can - for as long as we can.

For more information on how you can help with our online mission, please feel free to reach out to me at christian@good.org.



**Christian Nielsen
(he/him)
Coordinator of
Worship Arts &
Online Engagement
christian@good.org
952-452-9399**

Congregational Care

Congregational Care Comment

When I was first introduced to what has become my position here at Good Sam, it was described as primarily involving “finding new ways to care for the soul of a congregation.”

“The soul of a congregation.” How lovely, inspiring, and meaningful.

When I think of caring for one’s “soul,” or what I prefer to call one’s “spirit,” what initially comes to mind is learning to notice when one is in or out of alignment with said spirit. When we are in alignment with our spirits, we often experience “tells” that we are in such alignment that may be comprised of feelings, sensations, or values such as peace, ease, lightness, excitement, or steadiness.

When in alignment, these inner tells exist no matter how otherwise chaotic, painful, or difficult is our present experience. For each of us, our experience of alignment is nuanced and personal, and yet, it almost always demonstrates some resonance with the fruits of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and/or self-control. It is my belief that when we start to pay attention to who, what, and where helps us to live in greater, more-consistent alignment with our own spirits, we can organize our life so that we are more in alignment, more of the time.

Even better yet, the more aligned we are—the more we spend our time and energy in pursuits and relationships that are life-giving for us—the greater our own sense of well-being and hence, the greater the well-being of all those who reside within our circle of influence. By living in alignment with our own spirits in alignment with Holy Spirit, we offer permission and pathways for others to do the same.

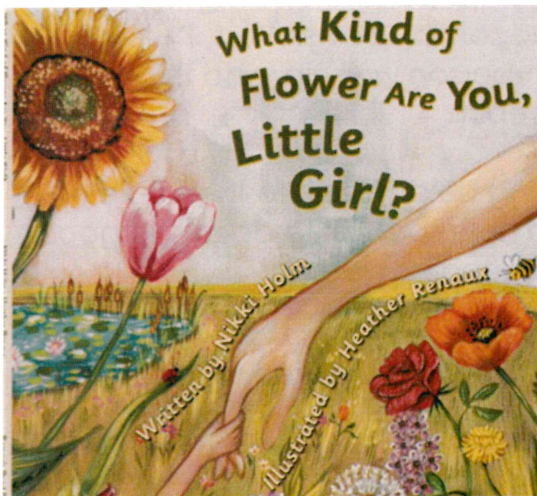
It is with that hope and purpose in mind that I share with you a recent passion-pursuit of mine—or what I might call a way in which I have been caring for and living in alignment with my own spirit in recent months. I have been working with a local hybrid-publishing company and illustrator to publish a children’s book I wrote a few years ago!! Wrapped up in this project are my creative energy, my innate call to champion unconditional worthiness, and my intense commitment to parenting intentionally, lovingly, and humbly. “*What Kind of Flower Are You, Little Girl?*” is a reminder to the child in us all that we deserve to be loved and nurtured as the wise, beautiful, and extraordinary individuals we are. The book is in its final stages of printing as we speak and should be available to the public by May or June! What fun. As always, thank you for the honor of caring for this congregation and of sharing myself with you as I do so. It makes me wonder: what spirit project may you be being called to nourish this season?

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



We are delighted to announce that we will be adding to our family come mid August 2022. (Details to come regarding my maternity leave as we get closer to that time). Thank you for sharing in our joy!
~Nikki



Congregational Care

Prayer for March

Gracious and loving God,

Although some of us enjoy winter more than others, most of us want to appreciate it for its place and purpose in the cycle of life. At our best, we appreciate the natural rhythm of light and dark, of dormancy and activity, of life and death. And so, God, thank you for this slowing down time, for these months of cold and dark in which what is meant to grow next could experience the foundation of what it is to become. Thank you also for the time to say goodbye to what is no longer and is not meant to return.

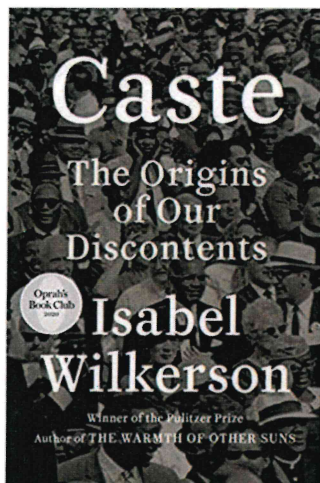
And now, Creator God, help us to prepare for spring. Help seeds of hope, excitement, passion, and newness grow both inside and outside of us. Help us to look for signs of life, beauty, and awe at every turn. Help us to be mindful of how we are being called to nurture the people, plants, animals, ideas, and dreams in our midst. Help us to gratefully receive nourishment from whatever sources you ordain to shower upon us.

God of wonder, teach us how to be patient as life in its various forms unfolds before us, whether we are witness to it or not. Let us find the goodness in the preparation phases of life: the waiting phases, the in-between times, the limbo periods that precede the gift, blessing, or outcome we are so anxious to receive. Just as a chrysalis must form to completion before a butterfly emerges, help us too to trust the processes that lead to new life in all its varied forms. Help us to trust in you, Oh God, and the promises of spring.

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

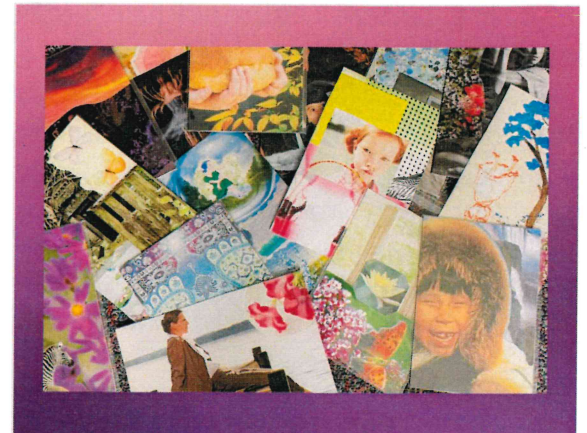
Thursday Afternoon Book Group

The next meeting will be on March 10th at 1:00 pm in the Fireside Room. Our discussion title will be *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents* by Isabel Wilkerson. This award winning title explores the social divisions in American society, many of them unacknowledged, using comparisons with India and Nazi Germany. For questions contact victoria.dunn@q.com.

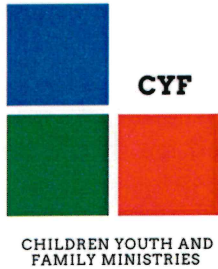


Special Event: Soul Collages with the Tuesday morning Bible Study on March 29th!

All adults are welcome to attend a unique gathering of Good Sam's Tues. Bible study on March 29th from 9:30-11:30am during which Nikki will be leading us in a soul collaging activity. No experience needed; supplies will be provided. Simply come prepared to allow your creative spirit freedom to explore a deeper relationship with yourself, God, and one another through the creation of a soul collage or two.



Children, Youth and Family Ministries



Jan M. Russell (she/her),
Director of Children, Youth & Family Ministries
jan@good.org
952-452-9398



Medical Leave

We celebrate the healing Jan continues to experience after her successful surgery, and we are excited to welcome her back from medical leave on February 28.

Thank you to all who helped in Jan's absence, including the following: Nikki Holm and Christian Nielsen offering leadership for Children's Moments, Pastor Carol teaching Confirmation, and the following teachers leading our children during Sunday School: Sarah Kumagai, Caroline Carlin, Laurie Olson, Jean Zivkovich, Lynn Timmer and Christina Leenders.

All Parent Meeting

Jan and Pastor Carol convened a hybrid All Parent Meeting in January. We're now ready for the follow-up meeting to that, and will meet Wednesday, March 9, at 7:30 pm on Zoom.

Our primary objective will be to brainstorm possible activities or events that are easy for children and youth to invite friends to, and to do some concrete planning and scheduling for the spring and summer.

Parents and grandparents of children and youth ages 0-18 are especially invited to this meeting. Here are the details for joining the Zoom call: Meeting ID: 889 3084 2902; Passcode: GoodSam.



2022 Camping Season

Camp brochures are now available for pickup at the welcome table in the upper narthex, as well as on the literature table in the office area.

For your convenience, you may also explore the various camps available and sign up for one at <https://www.campminnesota.org/>.

Early Bird registration deadline is April 30. Registering early gives you \$25 in a Camp Store Credit.

Camping ministries hold the following values: to nurture Christian faith and discipleship; teach creation care and appreciation; develop principled spiritual leaders, and inspire and equip lives for love and justice.

Take a look at available camps and sign up for one today!

Save the Dates:

Confirmation Sunday - May 15
Vacation Bible School - June 27 to June 30
ASP - July 23 to 31 (postponed to 2023)
Serve MSP - August 3 to 5

Missions

Your Missions Team has been working through **Refugee Services** at the **Minnesota Council of Churches** the past two months to help three families from Afghanistan and one family from Myanmar! Brian B., Roy M., Dave K. and Leif R. did all the heavy lifting with JoAnn K., Vicki D. and Pat D.B. doing the light lifting and coordinating. A new Edina volunteer interpreter, Franci G. has also been helping with all this, plus she speaks two of the three languages in Afghanistan, so that has been very helpful. Please know that your generous donations are helping many lives. Right now, we don't need any more furnishings or clothes but if you have an extra hour or two to help, we'd really appreciate it.



The family of 13 from Myanmar had only two beds until we brought them 7 more, so all of them now have a comfortable place to sleep. We brought lots of furnishings they said they needed, too.

We helped our first Afghan family with three van loads, two trailer loads, and one car load, full of furniture & furnishings which we collected from three different places over three days. Whew!

Two new Afghan refugee mothers were very happy to go through all of the things the congregation has so generously donated. We filled two cars up with anything that their families could use - including diapers since two babies are involved. We will be helping them more.

One American family from Stonebridge whom we've previously helped has contracted Covid and wasn't able to work for one month, so we helped her with February's rent.

Another American family we've previously helped has also benefitted from your generosity of clothing and furnishings by choosing things they needed.

Steve K. took the 20-30 extra coats down to the Dignity Center, which is run by Hennepin Avenue UMC, since people need them NOW.

AS MINNESOTANS WE STRIVE TO TREAT ALL PEOPLE WITH THE **COMPASSION THEY DESERVE**

Refugees want to participate fully in life without the fear of violence or persecution. With a little help when they arrive, refugees become contributing Minnesotans.

Welcoming refugees is in line with our Minnesota values.

FORCED TO FLEE HOME

A refugee is someone who has been forced to flee his or her country because of persecution, war or violence. As of 2019, there are 25.9 million refugees in the world.

LIVING IN LIMBO

Many refugees wait in camps designed to be temporary. Less than 1% are approved for resettlement. After approval, the screening process takes at least two years.

ARRIVE IN U.S. RESETTLEMENT CITY

Refugees come to the U.S. on a travel loan they repay. They receive 90 days of support to become self-sufficient.

MAKE MINNESOTA HOME

People who arrive as refugees buy homes, take the oath of citizenship, learn to navigate (and maybe even love!) the winter, and fully identify as Minnesotans.

**95% OF REFUGEES
COME TO MINNESOTA TO
REUNITE WITH FAMILY.**

Half of refugees who come to the U.S. are children.

Refugee Services provide specialized services for individuals with humanitarian protection status to assist them on the path to self-sufficiency. They strive to provide excellent, holistic, family-centered services that provide abundant support to refugees and their families. They serve **Refugees, Asylees, Special Immigrant Visa ("SIV") Holders, Cuban/Haitian Entrants, Victims of Trafficking, and AmerAsians** for up to 5 years. It is part of the **Minnesota Council of Churches**.

~Pat Deckas Beccerra

Missions Team

Announcing VEAP's Annual March Food Drive, 2022

All our donations will be given to VEAP and the Joyce Uptown Food Shelf. Please bring all donations to church beginning March 1, 2022.

Grocery bags will be available Sunday, February 27 with a list of most needed food items. Diapers and toilet paper are much needed too. A collection box will be in the Narthex. Donations can also be dropped off at VEAP or Joyce at the rear garage door entrance.

VEAP
9600 Aldrich Ave. S.
Bloomington, MN 55420
Monday-Friday, 9:00a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Joyce Uptown Food Shelf
3041 Fremont Ave. S.
Mpls. MN 44508
Fridays, 9:00a.m.-1:00 p.m.

May this be a record breaking year of donations as food prices continue rising. Please contact Sue Ohman at 952-994-5262 with any questions.

MN Reconciling Congregations Spring Gathering



You are invited to join with other MN Reconciling United Methodists on Saturday, March 12 at 12:45. Our denomination is in limbo; there is racial unrest; we don't know what's happening with the pandemic. How do we survive this time of uncertainty?

Come hear Rev. Leah Rosso, First UMC of the St. Cloud Region, speak on "How to take care of ourselves in times of turmoil" as well as hear Reconciling updates. The location closest to us is Good Samaritan. See other gathering locations at www.mnrcumc.org or view the live-stream at www.fumcscr.org. If you have questions, please contact Brian Boysen 612-220-3795 or Roy Moeller 952-237-7088.



Feed My Starving Children

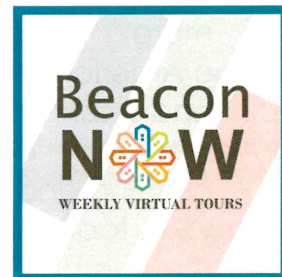
We have two opportunities (for anyone age 5 and up) to pack meals in March:

- Friday, March 4 from 7:00-8:45 pm.
(Let Jane know by March 2.)
- Wed., March 9 from 9:00-10:45 am.
(Let Jane know by March 7.)

Contact jane.heimerl@yahoo.com or call 952-933-6628.

Beacon Housing

We know Beacon mainly through their Families Moving Forward program but they do so much more. Beacon invites you to attend a virtual "Beacon Now" session



every Wednesday at 2:00. They touch on the basics of Beacon's work with the homeless and refugees, go in depth on one aspect of that work, and discuss how we can make a difference for our neighbors now. Only half an hour! Just go to their website to register: <https://www.beaconinterfaith.org/event/beacon-now-12-22-21>

Diaper Drive

Thank you!

Our February Diaper Drive went well, so thank you very much! However, since the food shelves constantly need diapers, especially the larger sizes for toddlers, you can certainly drop them off to the VEAP or Joyce food shelves anytime.

Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC)

Staffing Updates

February brought many staffing announcements to share from the Staff Parish Relations Committee. **Kate Graber** came to Good Samaritan as our new Chancel Chimes Director, starting February 7. Kate brings over 20 years of experience ringing and directing. Most recently Kate directed adult and youth handbell choirs at Mount Olivet Lutheran Church in Minneapolis. She also rings with Twin Cities Bronze and is a former member of Bells of the Lakes, both of which have played with Good Sam ringers in the past. She is a member of Toll Free, a handbell quartet she helped start, playing both sacred and secular music.



By day, Kate is a Software Quality Assurance Engineer at Thrivent Financial and a part-time accountant for an engineering firm specializing in construction management. She has a bachelor's degree in Accounting from the University of Minnesota and an MBA in Finance from the University of St. Thomas. In her spare time Kate enjoys cooking, reading, and knitting. Pre-Covid she enjoyed trying new restaurants and traveling. She hopes to return to those hobbies soon.



Kim Hill joined our staff as Bookkeeper, starting February 14. Kim was born in Corning, N.Y. and raised her family in the Apple Valley / Eagan, MN area. She has a B.S in Accounting from Elmira College and is a CPA (inactive). Kim worked at NCS Pearson as a senior accountant for 28 years and recently retired.

Kim loves spending time with her husband Ron, her two daughters Nissa and Holly, her son Brad, and her three granddaughters as well as extended family and friends. She also loves to enjoy all four seasons outdoors with walking, jogging, swimming, biking, cross country skiing while spending quality time with family and friends. She also values living a healthy lifestyle by eating well, along with rest and prayer.

Cindy Bergstrom started as Office Manager on February 21. Cindy will be in the office Monday-Friday from 9:00-1:00. Cindy has many years of experience working in churches, primarily working with children's and youth choirs. Cindy recently concluded her role as Office Manager of another church when the position there was eliminated. She currently works also as the Director of Music and Chancel Choir Director at Robbinsdale Parkway United Church of Christ.



Cindy and her husband live in Southwest Minneapolis and have two grown children. Cindy enjoys tennis, the outdoors, her dog and cat, and meeting new people. She loves a good crossword puzzle and other word games. She's looking forward to meeting folks here at Good Samaritan!

During February, we said farewell to **Dick Musser**. He served as our financial secretary through a temporary agency for over two years, and really saw us through a lot of transition and uncertainty in the early days of the pandemic.

With these staffing transitions, we are blessed to have **Kay Turner** remain with us through the month of March to help in the training of Cindy. Kay was also hired as a temporary employee and yet has been with us for three years! Kay will continue working in the office Tuesday and Wednesday mornings through March 30. Watch for news about celebrating Kay's time with us in a future communication.

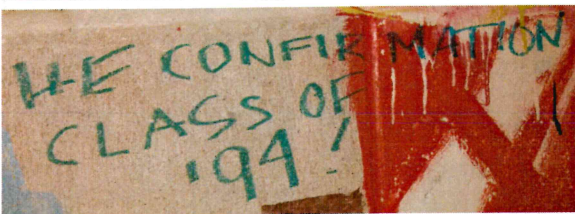
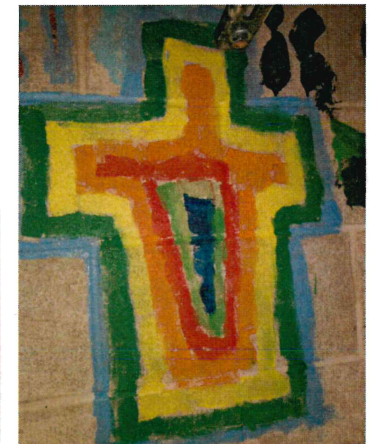
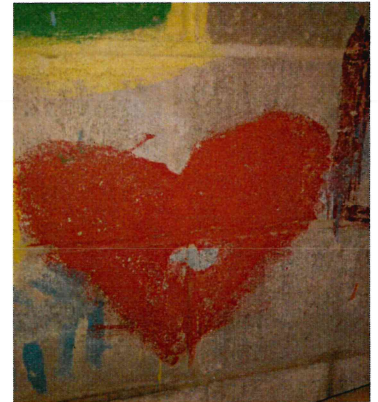
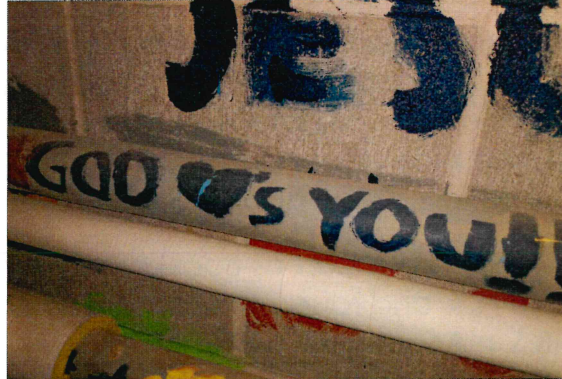
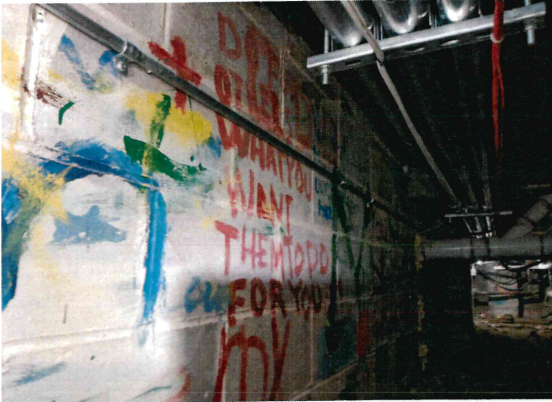
Trustees

Maintenance Minute

Good Sam tunnels-part 2. Down the tunnels at good Sam you will notice the walls covered in art that has been drawn and painted by kids and teachers in the early years of bible school. The bible school teachers would bring the kids down there to depict the Catacombs of Paris. The oldest year I've seen painted on the walls is 1964. I was told 1998 was the last year they did this. Please enjoy these pictures I took of the tunnel art. It's only a small portion of the actual amount of art that covers the walls! ~Dan Green



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

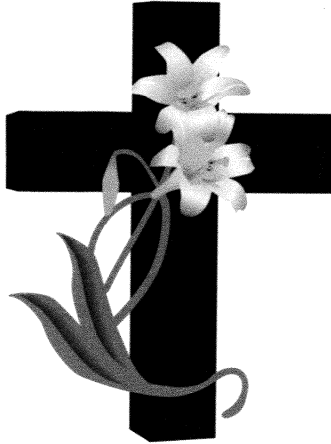


Lower Entrance Wall Project Update

Many of you probably are wondering what is going on with the lower level entrance. Rest assured it has not been forgotten. A small group has been working to find the best way to add life to the wall through color and light. The goal is to make this a welcoming place for all people to gather and enjoy even if they aren't religious or members of Good Samaritan. We have gone down a few different paths with each idea presenting different challenges. We are getting closer to a final plan and hope to have this room transformed by Easter. We truly will need to celebrate when this project is completed!

Thank you for your patience,
~Margie Soran, Beth Hutson, Mary Lewis

Easter Flower Order Form



2022 Easter Flower Order Form Help Beautify our Sanctuary!

*Order plants below. Indicate color and quantity.
Orders and payment are due by Sunday, April 3.*

*Simply **TEAR OUT THIS PAGE**,
and put in the offering plate or mail to the church office
with your check marked "Easter Flowers."*

	Quantity	\$ Subtotal
Easter Lily (white) \$10	_____	\$ _____
Asiatic Lily \$15	_____	\$ _____
	(yellow) (orange) (pink)	
Azalea \$25	_____	\$ _____
	(pink) (white) (bi-color)	
Hydrangea \$30	_____	\$ _____
	(blue) (pink)	
Tulip \$15	_____	\$ _____
	(yellow) (purple) (pink)	
Mum \$15	_____	\$ _____
	(yellow) (white) (purple)	
Donation for additional flowers to deliver to our homebound members		\$ _____
ORDER TOTAL		\$ _____

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

PHONE NUMBER

IN MEMORY OF --- or --- **IN HONOR OF** (check one and fill out line below)

_____ I would like to donate my plant to a homebound member.

Plants may be picked up after the 10:00 am Easter worship service.



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



OUR VISION

INSPIRING
Joyful Faith

BUILDING
a Loving
Community

SERVING
Neighbors Near
and Far

WORSHIP AT GOOD SAMARITAN

Sunday Worship	10:00 am (In-Person and Online)
Nursery	Infants - Age 3 (by reservation)
Children's Sunday School	Children's Sunday School is held during worship, following the Passing of the Peace.
Youth Sunday School	Postponed at present due to the pandemic.

GOOD SAMARITAN OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday Phone	9:00 am - 1:00 pm (952) 929-0049
--------------------------------	-------------------------------------

All Church Conference Minutes

Editor's Comment: After worship on January 30, 2022, over 40 individuals remained for our Administrative All Church Conference. A summary of the meeting is offered here, along with a copy of the 2022 budget that was adopted.

GOOD SAMARITAN UMC ALL CHURCH CONFERENCE MINUTES JANUARY 30, 2022 at 11:00 am

PASTOR UPDATE - Rev. Carol Zaagsma

Pastor Carol opened with prayer. She explained today's agenda would consist of reports made by committee chairs from SPRC, the Board of Trustees and Finance. Typically, we would also review membership rolls, but this review will be delayed until our June conference when hopefully we are able to take a more accurate count of our active membership.

Pastor Carol shared her top priorities for 2022. They include the following:

- Children, Youth and Family Ministries - work closely with Jan and others to support our efforts to rebuild this area of our ministries.
- Digital Campus Initiative – recognize that we essentially have two different worship services: pre-recorded online and in-person, and Pastor Carol will work closely with Christian and others to expand ministries with our online community through a combination of Zoom-only and hybrid meetings and ministry opportunities (this is in addition to the ongoing efforts to return to in-person gatherings and ministries).
- Focus on administrative systems and church culture – develop and implement administrative priorities, including improving church administrative procedures and policies, creating better documentation for reference when making decisions, and working with staff and leadership to break down silos.

STAFF/PARISH RELATIONS (SPRC) UPDATE – Caroline Carlin

Caroline explained that in 2021 SPRC worked very hard as illustrated by Good Sam's new hires:

- Nikki Holm – Director of Congregational Care
- Paolo Debuque – Chancel Choir Director
- Pastor Carol Zaagsma – Lead Pastor
- Christian Nielsen – Coordinator of Worship Arts and Online Engagement
- Paul McKenzie – Chancel Chimes Director
- Mary Beth Berg – Organist / Accompanist

This year SPRC will begin with a focus on filling the open Office Manager, Bookkeeper and newly opened Chancel Chimes Director positions.

March 2022 *The Samaritan* Insert

BOARD OF TRUSTEES UPDATE - Rick Evans

Rick reported that the building and grounds have been well-maintained throughout the pandemic, and he does not have any significant concerns about Good Samaritan's buildings or grounds. Over the past year the Trustees were able to get the gas pipes on the church roof replaced. They worked with Hennepin County watershed district a few years ago to develop a rain garden in the north end of the parking lot, which will also help improve the health of the pond. This year we are at the point in our agreement where we will assume upkeep.

Rick also reported on the United Methodist Denomination's work to clarify the relationship between each individual church and the Boy Scout troops they currently charter.

The church roof sustained hail damage some time ago, and the contractor the trustees selected is negotiating with the insurance company to repair the damage. We're hoping the work will begin in the spring.

Finally, Rick expressed how pleased the trustees are with the work performance of Dan Green the church Building Engineer.

FINANCE UPDATE – Byron Olson

Byron highlighted the following from 2021:

- 2021 budget ended with \$11,415 surplus. \$5,412 was placed into the Evergreen Fund and \$6,003 was referred to the Foundation.
- Ending balance of the Reserve Fund is \$158,598 or 21% of the proposed 2022 budget.

2022 BUDGET PRESENTATION - Byron Olson

Byron reported the proposed 2022 budget is \$771,860 which is a 4% increase over 2021. The Finance Committee proposes this budget based in part of the following analysis:

- Income was projected from 2022 pledges along with a review of giving trends from 2021, and includes a transfer of \$9,000 from the Evergreen Fund, and a transfer of \$41,692 from reserves if necessary.
- The personnel budget represents 51% of the total budget, up 4% from last year's 47%.
- An additional three months of mortgage payments have been transitioned from the capital fund to the operating budget, so that now our budget represents 1/2 of our annual mortgage obligation.

The motion to approve the 2022 budget was approved unanimously.

MEETING ADJOURNED SHORTLY AFTER NOON.

Respectfully submitted,
Tony Branch
Church Council Chair

Good Samaritan United Methodist Church Budget

For fiscal year 2022 (adopted 01.30.2022)

Description	2021 EOY	2021 Budget	2022 Budget
001 - INCOME RECEIVED			
Pledges-Current Yr-Rcvd This Year	\$509,216	\$557,000	\$590,000
Pledges-Current Yr-Ppd Last Year	\$18,258		
Allowance for Uncollectable Pledges		(\$10,000)	(\$10,000)
Pledges-Prior Yr- Rcvd This Year	\$1,525		
Unpledged Income	\$70,153	\$120,000	\$75,000
Loose Offering	\$16,975	\$5,000	\$14,000
Reserve Fund		\$18,701	\$41,692
Facility Usage Fees	\$8,438	\$10,000	\$15,000
Creekside Pre-School	\$35,965	\$35,965	\$37,168
Evergreen Fund (5%)	\$8,000	\$7,000	\$9,000
TOTAL INCOME	\$670,138	\$743,666	\$771,860
EXPENSE			
TOTAL APPORTIONMENTS & MISSIONS	\$103,673	\$103,673	\$94,724
TOTAL PERSONNEL EXPENSE	\$335,068	\$346,000	\$392,600
004 - PROGRAMS EXPENSE:			
Total Children's Program	\$7,022	\$13,300	\$10,000
Total Youth Program	\$1,827	\$5,100	\$4,800
Total Adult Program	\$53	\$250	\$250
Total Confirmation	\$217	\$1,500	\$1,250
Total Congregational Life	\$45	\$500	\$500
TOTAL EDUCATION PROGRAM	\$9,164	\$20,650	\$16,800
TOTAL WORSHIP	\$316	\$2,000	\$1,500
TOTAL FELLOWSHIP	\$200	\$5,500	\$3,500
TOTAL MUSIC	\$6,786	\$10,000	\$14,200
TOTAL OTHER PROGRAMS	\$2,265	\$6,550	\$4,550
TOTAL PROGRAM EXPENSE	\$18,731	\$44,700	\$40,550
TOTAL OFFICE EXPENSE	\$45,485	\$63,600	\$57,300
TOTAL PROPERTY EXPENSE	\$114,751	\$ 141,200	\$ 129,200
007 - BUILDING EXPENSE:			
Equipment	0	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
Supplies	\$ 6,186	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000
Maintenance	\$ 21,572	\$ 24,000	\$ 24,000
Building Improvements	264	\$ 500	\$ 500
Mortgage	\$ 12,993	\$ 12,993	\$ 25,986
TOTAL BUILDING EXPENSE	\$41,015	\$ 44,493	\$ 57,486
TOTAL Expense	\$658,723	\$743,666	\$771,860
TOTAL INCOME OVER (UNDER) EXPENSE	\$11,415	\$ 0	\$ -