

May
2022

The Samaritan

Worship Themes

Our series after Easter has us looking at Good Samaritan UMC's beliefs.

May 1 - Biblical Interpretation/
Communion

May 8 - Our Heritage/
Mother's Day/
Confirmation

May 15 - Meaning vs
Certainty

May 22 - Different
Names for God

May 29 - Stewards of
God's Gifts



Worship in May

May is Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month, established by Congress in 1992. We have the opportunity to recognize this and a few other special occasions in worship throughout May.

May 1

Music Leader: Suzanna Matthews
Suzanna Matthews is an Indian-American singer and choral conductor based in Ypsilanti, MI.

May 8

Music Leader: Paolo Debuque
I will be sharing music from the Philippines. This is also Confirmation Sunday and Mother's Day.

May 15

Music Leaders: Homeward Bound
Music for this day will center around the theme of truth and grace.

May 22

Music Leader: Jeremy Wong
Jeremy Wong is a Japanese-Chinese-American baritone and conductor raised in Hawaii. He is currently based in Minneapolis, where he sings with Cantus.

May 29

Celebrate Memorial Weekend in worship as we explore our responsibility as stewards of God's creation.

For more information on AAPI month, see Paolo's article on page 3, or explore the Asian Pacific American Heritage Month website:
<https://asianpacificheritage.gov/about/>

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Pastor's Page

Momentum

I've heard so many wonderful things about Easter morning - the excitement was palpable from a distance, even to me, as I remained at home recovering from COVID-19. The compliments about the music continued well into the next week, as did the excitement about how so many people pitched in to provide leadership in various ways throughout the morning. Before worship at 10:00 am had concluded, I received an excited text message celebrating that we had a total of 248 people in attendance at the two worship services combined. There is clearly interest in helping to build on this momentum, but we all know that it's going to take the effort of many to do so.

Soon after my arrival at Good Samaritan, we scheduled a number of Meet and Greets for us to get to know each other a little better. Understandably, there was cautious optimism from many in those meetings, but there was also a number of you who said, "I'm ready to help - let me know what I can do." I'm counting on such a willing spirit to continue now that some needs have been identified.

In the coming weeks, more information will be available, but I can share with you now that I'm interested in building a roster of people willing to serve as liturgists, greeters, and communion stewards on Sunday mornings. It would also be great to have different people willing to coordinate each of these responsibilities. We're also looking for a few new folks to serve on the Board of Trustees, Finance Committee, Stewardship, Missions, Marketing, and a new Digital Ministries Team. Perhaps the most pressing need at the moment is for a Funeral Luncheon Coordinator. If you have gifts and talents to share in any of these areas of ministry, I hope you will talk with me.

Pentecost Mosaic - Calling all Color-ers!

On Pentecost, we remember the day the disciples received the Holy Spirit in a special way. The story in Acts 2 describes a powerful wind and tongues of fire as the Holy Spirit was poured out on people from all over the world who were in Jerusalem to celebrate a Jewish feast.

This year, we'd like to celebrate Pentecost with a coloring project to help decorate our sanctuary. We're looking for 36 people who are each willing to color one page that will fit together with the remaining 35 to create a mosaic picture that represents Pentecost. You can color your page however you wish - with crayons, markers, colored pencils or paints. The uniqueness of each coloring page is what will make this fun and interesting once it's all put together.



If you are willing to participate in this fun project, please see Jan or email her at jan@good.org to receive your individual page. Please color and return by Monday, May 23 so that we can put the whole picture together for in-person as well as online worship.

Serving with you,

Pastor Carol

Worship

AAPI month at Good Sam

I am thrilled to share that this May, Good Samaritan will be commemorating AAPI (Asian-American/Pacific Islander) month in America, using our musical resources to celebrate the contributions and experiences of AAPI people in this country. We have set aside three Sundays in the month to highlight the musical experiences of AAPI colleagues: May 1st, 8th, and 22nd. In this inaugural iteration, we have been careful not to bite off more than we can chew, and will use our experience through this month to identify possible directions for growth and refinement in future years.

As we prepare to embark on this exciting endeavor, there is an issue I'd like to address directly, a pitfall that predominantly white organizations can often fall prey to in pursuing otherwise well-intentioned cultural programming. That is the **burden of representation**. This phenomenon, first articulated by James Baldwin when speaking of his experience as a prominent black writer, is a weight of responsibility imposed on members of marginalized populations, especially in the context of public expressions of identity or experience. Baldwin described it as "the homely notion that you represent your race, thus that your actions can betray your race or honor it."



I see this burden foisted on people of color and other members of marginalized populations when those around them are interested (consciously or not) in learning about a broad, generalized experience, i.e., "what is it like to be XYZ?" (XYZ can be AAPI, black, queer, female, etc.). Embedded in this curiosity is the assumption that there exists some platonic "XYZ experience" that all members of XYZ must have in common. This assumption can be quite damaging! Growing up, I felt pressure to identify the "Asian-American experience" and figure out how to understand

my own life through that imagined lens. Failing to do so, for a while I questioned the legitimacy of my own identity: am I truly Asian-American if I can't position myself in that stream?

Only recently have I learned to turn the question on its head: I *am* Asian-American. Therefore the Asian-American experience is my experience. The question that matters, then, is not "What is it like to be Asian-American?" but "What has being Asian-American meant to you?" That is a question I am excellently equipped to answer!

With all this in mind, in welcoming their experiences and perspectives into our congregation, I have intentionally not asked our guests to go out of their way to answer broad questions like "What is it like to be XYZ?" or even "What are the musical traditions of XYZ like?" Maybe in future years we can invite guests equipped to answer such questions! Instead, I have asked them to bring music that excites them, and that speaks to their personal experience as AAPI folk. The central question is something more like "When you reflect on your lived experience as an AAPI person, what music resonates?"

I hope you share my excitement in hearing and learning from the various answers to that question as they arise in the coming month! As always, I and the rest of the music staff are grateful for your support, and glad to be working with this wonderful congregation.

Paolo Debuque
Chancel Choir
Director &
Music Coordinator
paolo@good.org
952-452-9397



Congregational Care

Congregational Care Comment

As most of you know, I am currently pregnant with what will hopefully be our third child, although our sixth pregnancy. Sadly, our story in that regard is not that unique. As I sit with my joy and gratitude and anticipation of this new life growing inside of me, I am especially mindful

of a dear friend of mine who was due to have a baby girl this month of May and yet lost her on Palm Sunday. Together we had done much envisioning of having our babies just three months apart, babies who were meant to be going to the same daycare even, to say nothing of the envisioning that they had done as a family in preparation for their precious little girl. And again, heartbreakingly so, their story is not entirely unique either.

Amidst such realities, we could ask, cry, and scream many questions seeking answers and fairness and solid ground to stand upon. And yet we may get no more definitive answers than the remembrance of the Paschal Mystery. This human journey is indeed a cycle of life and death in too many ways to count. This being so, as we continue living into this Easter season in hopes of more resurrection, beauty, and light in a month where we set aside specific time to honor mothers, I wanted to share with you once again a blessing for all those who mother, nurture, and bless us. Let us each keep them close to heart this Mother's Day, most especially those as follows:

"The Wide Spectrum of Mothering" by Amy Young *(slightly adapted from www.messymiddle.com)*

To those who gave birth this year to their first child—we celebrate with you.

To those who lost a child this year—we mourn with you.

To those who are in the trenches with little ones every day and wear the badge of food stain—we appreciate you.

To those who experienced loss through miscarriage, failed adoptions, or running away—we mourn with you.

To those who walk the hard path of infertility, fraught with pokes, prods, tears, and disappointment—we walk with you.

To those who are foster moms, mentor moms, and spiritual moms—we need you.

To those who have warm and close relationships with your children—we celebrate with you.

To those who have disappointment, heart ache, and distance with your children—we sit with you.

To those who lost their mothers this year—we grieve with you.

To those who experienced abuse at the hands of your own mother—we acknowledge your experience.

To those who lived through driving tests, medical tests, and the overall testing of motherhood—we are better for having you in our midst

To those who have aborted children—we remember them and you on this day.

To those who are single and long to be married and mothering your own children—we mourn that life has not turned out the way you longed for it to be.

To those who stepparent—we walk with you on these complex paths.

To those who envisioned lavishing love on grandchildren, yet that dream is not to be—we grieve with you.

To those who will have emptier nests in the upcoming year—we grieve and rejoice with you.

To those who placed children up for adoption—

we commend you for your selflessness and remember how you hold that child in your heart.

And to those who are pregnant with new life, both expected and surprising—we anticipate with you.

This Mother's Day, we walk with you. Mothering is not for the faint of heart and we have real warriors in our midst. We remember you.

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

Thank You from Kay

Thanks to you all for your loving kindness and generosity. I am grateful for my time at Good Sam and grateful for knowing so many of you.

With gratitude,
Kay Turner



Soul Collage

Here is a snapshot of the Soul Collage creating activity the Tuesday Morning Bible Study participated in on Tuesday, March 29. Photo contributed by participant Sue Shaw.

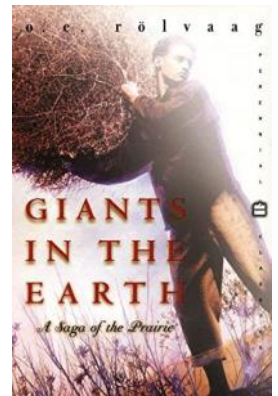
THANK YOU!!

Thank you to all of the members of our congregation who donated Easter Bag materials and flowers for the homebound members and friends of our congregation. Thank you to those who put the bags together. Thank you to those who delivered either bags or flowers to their intended recipients. We so appreciate the opportunity to spread some beauty and joy this season, especially as we continue to live into our call to build a loving community!



Thursday Afternoon Book Club

Our May meeting will be on May 12th at 1:00 pm in the Fireside Room. We will be discussing ***Giants in the Earth: a Saga of the Prairie*** by O.E. Rolvaag, the classic story of a Norwegian pioneer family's struggles with the land and the elements of the Dakota Territory. Please join us for fun and fellowship! Questions: Contact Vicki Dunn, victoria.dunn@q.com, 952-930-3431.



Children, Youth and Family Ministries



S'mores and Samaritans

May 14, 2022

Bring a friend and enjoy s'mores around the firepit. All supplies provided.

4:00-6:00 pm geared toward 5th grade and younger families.

6:00-8:00 pm geared to 6th to 12th graders.

But by all means, come when you can!!

(In case of rain we will be in Fellowship Hall.)



Jan M. Russell (she/her)

Director of Children, Youth & Family Ministries

jan@good.org

952-452-9398



Vacation Bible School

June 27-30, 2022

9:00am-4:00pm

Participants: 4 years old
to 4th grade

Volunteers: 5th grade
to adult!



Save the Dates

Confirmation Sunday - May 8 @ 10:00 am

Senior Recognition Sunday - June 5 @ 10:00 am

Serve MSP! - August 3-5 (youth grades 6-12.
Sign up details coming soon)

ASP at Home

A house in Bloomington has been picked out for us to work on June 15-17, 2022.

We will be working with Hearts and Hammers to scrape and paint an exterior of the home. There will also be a bit of landscaping we will work on.



This is a great opportunity to work with your Good Sam friends and bring a new friend. Please email jan@good.org soon to save your spot.

Missions

Mission Team Update

The Missions Team, with wonderful pastoral and staff support, sends May flowers of thanks for all your support. Here is what is growing on:



- Offering funds and designated gifts have been distributed for *education* to Edina ABC, Camphor Memorial UMC, and Joyce Preschool; and for *food security* to Feed My Starving Children, VEAP, Joyce Uptown Foodshelf, and Meals on Wheels.
- Donations of household goods and furniture to Afghan families have been delivered.
- We are staying tuned to Beacon advocacy and affordable housing issues.
- Educational games have been delivered for Biawalla School.
- Blessed Ramadan signs have been placed.
- UMCOR donations designated for Ukraine have been sent out.
- The Easter Offering letter was been mailed and offerings have been coming in.

With your generous support Good Samaritan is serving neighbors near and far. Thank you!

March Food Drive and Diaper Drive Totals

Thank you, one and all, for your generous donations during the Diaper Drive and Food Drive to assist people in our community.

Our Good Samaritan Community donated the following between February 28-April 9:

Food: 344 pounds

Diapers/Wipes: 131.5 pounds

Monetary Gifts: \$10,405.00

We also considered the potential for matching funds for the monetary donations given during the food drive and have confirmed that most of the monetary donations have been matched. Many will benefit from these donations.

Reconciling Report and Opportunity Stop

Good Samaritan served as a host site for a live-stream program for the Spring Gathering on March 12, and 14 persons signed in for the presentation and discussion following on the subject: "How to take care of ourselves in times of turmoil." Rev. Leah Rosso, First UMC of the St. Cloud Region provided an engaging and stimulating presentation to spark the discussion that followed. Those in attendance included ministers and lay persons.

If you missed the presentation you can view it by going to the MN Reconciling Ministries website: www.mnrcumc.org and clicking on the link.

If you are interested in more involvement with Reconciling, the MN Reconciling Congregations generally meet every other month with the next meeting on Thursday May 12 at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom. We are also looking for volunteers to staff a table at Annual Conference May 24-25 and to assist with Twin Cities PRIDE Festival events June 24-26 including booth set up in Loring Park. Contact Brian Boysen 612-220-3795.



Service Opportunity

Volunteer at the Chanhassen site
(18932 Lake Dr E):

Wednesday, May 11—9:00-11:45am
Friday, May 20—7:00-8:45pm

Sign up with Jane Heimerl at
jane.heimerl@yahoo.com
by two days before the event.
Space is limited!

Church Action Team

Final Update

The Church Action Team (CAT) was commissioned in 2019 to help prepare Good Sam for the future. Little did we know then the impact that COVID would have on many things, including this body of work. Through a steadfast commitment to Good Sam, we are pleased to share that we are nearing completion of the three priorities that were identified as noted below:

- **COMMUNICATIONS** - a new website to better tell our story
 - **Scope:** website re-design, content clean-up, improved navigation and administration
 - **Timing:** completed April 2020



- **FACILITIES** - a refreshed lower level entrance to create a more welcoming entry and space for fellowship
 - **Scope:** new paint, furniture, lighting and décor
 - **Timing:** began summer 2020; will be completed soon, featuring a beautiful display of photography provided by Dandy Lewis

- **TECHNOLOGY** - audio/visual enhancements in our sanctuary to enrich the worship experience
 - **Scope:** 2 cameras, 2 laser projectors, 2 motorized screens, presentation software, audio/visual desk, and choir TV monitors
 - **Timing:** Completed summer 2020, with some enhancements completed earlier this year



Thank you to all who contributed to this body of work. With special gratitude to Mary Lewis and Dandy Lewis who both spent countless hours contributing to the design of the photography display in our lower level entrance (preview in photo to the left).



It is our hope that these enhancements will assist Good Samaritan UMC to inspire joyful faith, build a loving community and serve neighbors near and far long into the future.

~ Church Action Team (including: Beth Hutson, Cynthia Kapke, Lynda Seitz, Margie Soran, Jin Chang, & Joel Young)

Pandemic: Your Voices

Editor's Note: Dave Kuhn issued this invitation to share the experiences of our Good Samaritan community through the pandemic. The question was "How has the pandemic changed your life? Or has it? Your family? Work life? Religious beliefs? Or...fill in the blank."

A Guide to Pandemic Survival

Joel Stegner

Our pandemic calling: Accept things that are beyond our control. Protect ourselves and others from harm. Expose false prophets who cash in from their lies. Thank God for vaccines and the science behind them. Take care of the caregivers. Support those who risked their lives by doing their jobs.

Divided Nation Is Disturbing

Joanie Goehl

My perspective of my country has changed, with people choosing not to be inoculated and the ugly behavior all over the country. We should all protect each other. Our divided nation is very disturbing. Let us really be "one for all and all for one." Despite all this, my hope for our future is not diminished.

Hello, Neighbor

Marilee Stevens

Eight years ago, Terry and I decided we wanted to live in a walkable neighborhood and we built ourselves a house. It took the pandemic shutdown to fully appreciate the warmth and depth of our neighbors. Walking our dog, Robbie, we got to know families, talked books and politics, gave and received gifts of love. Truly a silver lining!

Learning to Cherish the Time

Tony Branch

I am more intentional about connecting with and cherishing time with friends and family. I so appreciate a friend who took the initiative to schedule twice monthly Zoom trivia happy hours. I now realize how blessed we were to have each other during a very unprecedented and unsettling time.

A Canine Good-Bye

Adele Brellenthin

My life changed forever during the Pandemic. My husband died of cardiac arrest because of isolation in memory care. His friend Charles (his dog) and I were only able to visit him one and a half hours a week. He didn't understand why he was always alone. Because of Covid Bill only had family at the mortuary. As we were standing around his casket our daughter-in-law gently told me to put Charles in the casket with Bill for closure. I did and the experience is one that I will never forget. He was gentle and pawed Bill lovingly. It was a good thing I was wearing a mask as this was very emotional for me and the family. Charles is missing Bill as much as I am. Animals have feelings just like we as human beings do.

A Test of Our Nation

Dave Knutson

I don't know if the pandemic changed this but I have become more aware of it during the pandemic; and that is the fragility of our institutions and our need to support and strengthen them.

Divisive? Yes, But...

Rev. Carol Zaagsma

The pandemic has spotlighted divisiveness in our country, but I like to focus on how it also illuminated people's resolve, creativity and resiliency. To take in-person ministries (worship, meetings, fellowship, work) and figure out a way to continue them using the digital tools we have available is testament to our spirit!

Being in the Moment

Jeff Jelen

Weekly online worship requires I be more intentional about being "in the moment" with God. My intention has waned and my struggle to strengthen my relationship with God has suffered. I have come to realize my relationship with God does not strengthen from in-person worship alone, but it does help.

Pandemic: Your Voices

Hello, Retirement

Jeff Jelen

Part-time telecommuting had been a concept I was already open to. When Covid 19 induced a full-time telecommute, I soon came to the conclusion that I didn't miss the self-validating office life that consumed some of my co-workers and had started to consume me too. Retirement happened next.

Closer with Zoom

Jane Heimerl

The pandemic has shown how much more I value family and friends. My siblings and I have been on an every Sunday Zoom ever since the pandemic started which has brought us even closer.

So Long to Commuting

Brad Carlin

The pandemic and my emerging comfort with work from home has totally changed what I view as essential driving. For 27 years I had what many would have considered a decent commute (about 50 mins total per day), but that still meant I spent at least 4 hours in the car every week. Now I can't even imagine wasting that much time and gasoline.

Finance Team

Financial Update

The following table shows Good Samaritan's finances through March. Please note income is behind budget, resulting in a deficit vs. budget (year to date -\$46,013). We appreciate your continued support - to give towards your pledge, or make a one time gift, go to www.good.org/give.

	March Actuals	March Budget	YTD vs. Budget
Income	\$32,289	\$63,986	(\$56,839)
Expense	\$54,681	\$60,502	(\$10,826)
Net	(\$22,392)	(\$3,484)	(\$46,013)

Donating Stock

Did you know you can donate stock to Good Samaritan? It is very easy and with some stocks still performing very well, you might consider donating stock or a mutual fund. Typically, donation of an appreciated stock to Good Sam avoids paying capital gains tax while allowing for a charitable deduction for the full amount – consult your tax advisor for your specific situation. Donations can be directed to 2022 Operations or Good Samaritan Foundation.

All you need is:

- The Depository Trust & Clearing (DTC) form from your brokerage firm
- Fill the number of shares of the security to be donated
- Receiving firm (Good Samaritan): Charles Schwab & Co, Inc.
- Receiving firm's DTC number: 164
- Receiving account title: Good Samaritan UMC
- Receiving account number: 3185-9478

Be sure to let Cindy in the office (cindy@good.org) know you've donated stock so she can be on the lookout for it!

Trustees

Window Cleaning

Good Sam just recently had all of the outside building windows cleaned. They get pretty dirty throughout the winter. Fun fact: there are a total of 395 windows just on the outside of the building! You could just about double that number to include all of the windows on the inside.



We had a team of two from Express Window Cleaning come by the Wednesday before Easter to get them all cleaned up, including all of the stained glass windows in the sanctuary. Some parts needed a 40-ft extension ladder just to be able to be reached! It took them a total of 12 hours to complete the job.

I want to say thank you to Jesse and Aaron from Express Window Cleaning for being able to get our windows cleaned just before Easter on such short notice and for the great work that they did. Also, thank you to a wonderful church member that was able to donate to get this job done.

If you are in need of a good window cleaning service at your home or business, I recommend Express Window Cleaning. Contact Jesse at 763-263-9355 to schedule your appointment with them.

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



Peace Garden Planting - May 21 at 9:30 am

Please join us to plant the annuals in the Peace Garden on Saturday, May 21. Many hands will make planting get done quicker and be more fun. Please bring your own gloves and trowels. We'll start at 9:30 am and will probably be finished by 11:30 or noon. Of course, there will be donut holes and coffee as an enticement!

~Mary Lach and Steve Schultz

Marketing Team

Are You Ready to Parade?

Good Sam has paraded our Giant Puppets in the Edina July 4 parade for almost 10 years. It is a hit with the audience, especially the children. We would love to have you join us; all ages welcome. This morning parade is short, around one mile.



We need 15-18 participants. The three puppets require three puppeteers each. The other paraders hold signs and rev-up the crowd. If you can help, no experience necessary, please contact: JoAnn Knutson at 612-240-9372 or Dave Knutson at 612-859-2940.





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

Nonprofit Organization

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Twin Cities, MN

Permit No. 2518

Return Service Requested



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

**Children's
Sunday School** Children's Sunday School is held during
worship, following the Passing of the Peace.

**Youth Sunday
School** Postponed until Fall.

GOOD SAMARITAN OFFICE HOURS

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