

July
2022

The Samaritan

Worship Themes

In July and August we will embark on a worship series based on Rabbi Harold S. Kushner's book *Nine Essential Things I've Learned About Life*.

July 3 – "Lessons Learned Along the Way" / Outdoor Worship (weather permitting) / Communion

July 10 – "God Is Not a Man Who Lives in the Sky"

July 17 – "Forgiveness is a Favor You Do Yourself"

July 24 – "God Does Not Send the Problem: God Sends Us the Strength to Deal with the Problem"

July 31 – "Some Things are Just Wrong: Knowing That Makes Us Human"



Outdoor Worship July 3 and August 7 10:00 am (weather permitting)



**Join together for worship and holy communion
in our outdoor amphitheater
with Homeward Bound leading our music.**



**On August 7, we're planning to hear from
Rev. Judith Banya,
United Methodist clergy from Minnesota,
who returned in 2014 to her hometown
in Baiwalla, Sierra Leone
to start a church and a school.**

**Stay tuned – we are putting the finishing touches
on plans for light refreshments and fellowship
after worship both days, so plan to stay awhile for
conversation with your church friends.**

OUR STAFF

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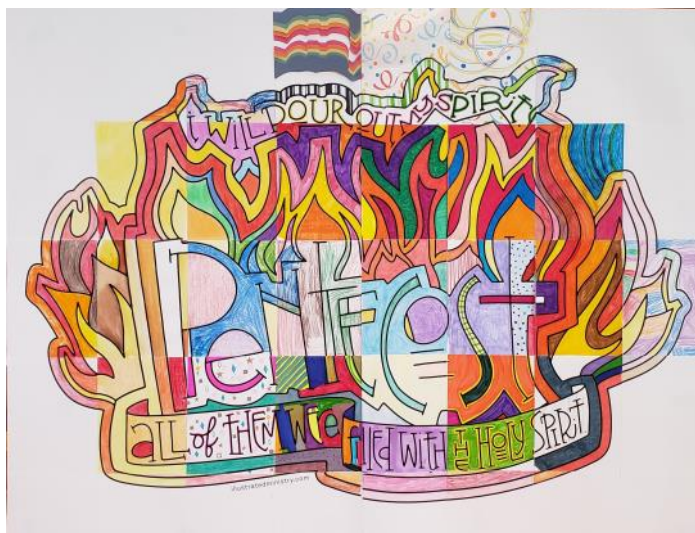
Pastor's Page

One of my very favorite things about church is that when we work together, we can accomplish so much more for God's purposes than any one of us can typically do on our own.

I have seen this to be true many times, including at a Staff Parish Relations Committee meeting June 21 where we reviewed all of our staff job descriptions for accurate content and consistent formatting. Each person present raised different insights, so between that and our staff's previous review and feedback, we have much stronger job descriptions than we would have if any one person had written them alone.

Another example was on June 12 when Homeward Bound and the Chancel Choir collaborated on a few pieces of music for in-person worship. It was so much fun to listen to these familiar songs being remade into joint band/choir arrangements. And it was even more delightful to see just how much fun our musicians were having as they presented such inspiring music.

A third example was on Pentecost, June 5, which is known as the birthday of the church. Acts 2 explains how, at Pentecost, the Holy Spirit was poured out on people from all over the world who were in Jerusalem to celebrate a Jewish feast. The Holy Spirit came in the form of a powerful wind and



tongues of fire. We put out a call for all color-ers to each color/paint/decorate one of 40 coloring sheets. Once colored, all the sheets would come together to make a mosaic wall hanging for Pentecost. This served as a perfect illustration of the idea that when we work together, we can accomplish so much more for God's purposes than any one of us typically can on our own. Here's the finished product!

And really, these are but a few examples from the last few weeks. At the time of this writing, the next illustration is scheduled for tomorrow, when the Missions Team is hosting a drive-through food donation event as a response to reports that food shelves are dangerously low on supplies.

God's Spirit is certainly active in our midst, and we give thanks for all that God is doing in and among and through us. There's always room for more as we work together in ministry, so if you haven't been to church in a while, please know that you are an important part of what God has in store for our future.

Serving with you,

Pastor Carol



Digital Team

Online Engagement: How You Can Be a Part of It

On Sunday, June 12, we launched our new Good Samaritan Online Community group on Facebook. This group will help serve as a hub of online interaction and information for our community, as well as having special curated content from our staff and Digital Team not available on our Facebook Page. It will be a private, safe, and moderated space. We hope you'll join us in this new ministry of the church as we continue to reach beyond our walls. If you have any questions in the meantime, feel free to reach out to Christian@good.org.

Ways to join and spread our **Good Samaritan Online Community** Facebook group:

STEP 1: Ways to find the Group

- QR code:** Open your smartphone camera app and aim it at this code. Your phone should ask you if you want to follow the link. Tap to confirm.
- Searching Facebook:** In the search box within Facebook, you can enter "Good Samaritan Online Community," and that should bring up our Facebook group. You can then request to join the group.
- Email Link:** If you're on our Good Samaritan email list, check your email for the link to join.
- By Invitation:** Some of you may also receive invitations through Facebook from staff, volunteers, and other members of our community.



STEP 2: Joining the Group

When you first come to the group, you'll be asked a couple of questions and to review and accept our community guidelines. These are in place so that we can maintain a safe and healthy online space. Once you complete those steps, a moderator will accept you into the group.

STEP 3: Sharing the Group within Our Community

Once you join the group, please invite others in the Good Samaritan community who you are friends with on Facebook. If you have any questions, concerns, or problems joining the group, please contact christian@good.org.

Good Sam Digital Team:

Christian Nielsen
Dave Knutsen
Christina Leenders
Joel Stegner
Rev. Carol Zaagsma

Our Group Cover Page looks like this:



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

Congregational Care

Prayer for July

Gracious and Loving God,

Here we are in the middle of this season of summer, a season that demonstrates life and fullness in all of their glory. Thank you for the gifts of growth, creation, life, and beauty, however and wherever they reveal themselves to us.

God of abundance, thank you too for all that nourishes and promotes such life. Thank you for sun and rain, for rich soil and life-giving nutrients. May we continue to work towards a world where every aspect of your creation receives everything it needs not just to survive but also to flourish.

God of empowerment, guide us each to know how we are meant to nourish and promote the well-being of others. Let our actions be like the sun and the rain. Let our words be like the soil and its nutrients. Let it be that every project, dream, space, plant, being, and person we encounter leaves our presence having received more of what it needs to live to its fullest potential.

God of love, let each of us too be supported, nourished, bettered, and celebrated, by those in our midst. Let us each receive what we need in order to blossom. Where our needs are not getting met, give us the courage, wisdom, and strength to let go of what is no longer serving us, to advocate on our own behalves, to search for and find what in all the world is to be the sun, rain, soil, and nutrients for us. Remind us of our worth, our dignity, and our potential, again and again. Help us to grow and to flourish as we are meant to do.

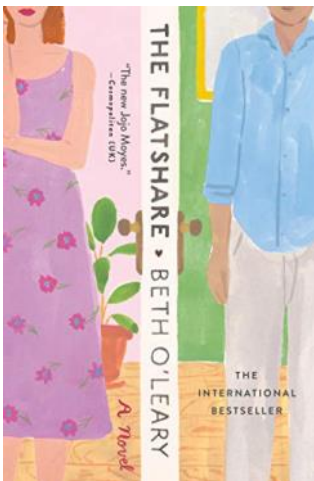
God of all, we pray all of these things in your holy name. Amen.

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**



Thursday Afternoon Book Club July Meeting

Our regular meetings will resume on September 8, *but* we are planning a summer get-together on **Thursday, July 14 at 1:00pm in the Fireside Room.**

The group definitely wanted to do a “fun, light book” so we will be discussing *The Flatshare* by Beth O'Leary, the story of Tiffy and Leon who share a London flat, but work opposite schedules so they never meet! Hope you can join us! Questions: Contact Vicki Dunn, victoria.dunn@q.com, 952-930-3431.

Congregational Care

The Book of Joy

by the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu
Some Participant Reflections

"I enjoyed our multi-month exploration of *The Book of Joy* via Zoom. I thought it was a wonderful way to connect with others and such an effective method to include people, including myself, who are out of town or not able to come to an in person forum. The book offered relevance during a time of coping with the Ukraine war as well as other political and societal challenges. Hearing the reflections of Desmond Tutu and the Dalai Lama gave much food for thought and anchors in trying to be present minded, show gratitude and try to support the world and our individual lives in a positive, compassionate way." - Heather Rykhus

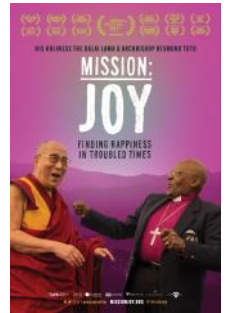
"This was my second time reading *The Book of Joy* with members of Good Sam. Each reading brought a richer experience. The ability to be part of a group where you were able to share your true feelings and be supported by the group with no judgment was very valuable to me. We were all on different stages on this path and to hear wise words from the more seasoned members and the struggles of the beginners was very helpful. Each time we were left with food for thought during the coming weeks. There was no right or wrong. It was just the path each of us was walking." - Joan Hursh

"*The Universal Christ* and *The Book of Joy* were both such powerful reads – filled with inspiration, intellectual challenges, and spiritual reflection. I have also thoroughly enjoyed the participation of the other members in the group. It is a real pleasure to hear their insights, opinions, introspection, and life experiences as related to the topics covered in the books. I so enjoy their wisdom and warmth. One reason I first joined the book group was to connect with members of the Good Samaritan community when my father passed away. Good Sam was a big part of his life and spiritual journey for decades, so it just felt right to engage in some way. I had already enjoyed how the online worship tapped into the Native American perspective, the environment,

and social justice. The book club seemed a great next step of engagement. I live in Boston and have a church of my own. I was happily surprised at the warmth and connection I felt with Nikki and the other book group participants. The fellowship was a real joy, and I don't currently have the same sense within my local church. The two book groups I've participated in have been a real blessing!" - Barry Friswold

MISSION: JOY **A Good Sam Watch Event**

Mission: JOY is a recently released, laugh-out-loud funny documentary in which His Holiness the Dalai Lama and the late Archbishop Desmond Tutu gather one last time to share their wisdom and humor. This film brings audiences inside the incredible friendship between these two leaders who, through tears, laughter, and a significant amount of teasing, show us all how to create more JOY in our lives every day, no matter our circumstances – even amidst times of war, pandemic, and political division in our deeply hurting world.



We have scheduled a free-to-you, virtual screening room in which our community will have from July 15, 12:00am through July 19, 12:00am PST in which to view the film on your own time.

Then, on Sunday, July 17 at 7:00pm CST, the congregation will be invited to gather in our new Good Samaritan Online Community via Facebook to discuss the movie together.

To pre-register for this event and receive access to the screening room during our screening window, please visit here: www.filmplatform.net/impact-event/mission-joy-good-samaritan-united-methodist-church/. Invitation code: MJG-SUMC

Feel free to plan smaller watch parties during that window in your own residences, near or far! If you feel compelled by the mission of getting this film to as many people as possible, please donate here: missionjoy.org/donate.

Children, Youth and Family Ministries

Children's Time Change

Publishers have changed their permission requirements as we move out of the pandemic. We will be able to use storybooks for our in-person worship. For our online worship, the children's moment will not include the reading of a storybook, but I will recommend one for your family to find from the library!

Build-Your-Own Activity Bags

Have you seen the new build-your-own activity bag station? Friends can grab a bag and fill it with their favorites. Choices include: a clip board; crayons; coloring pages; a variety of fidgets; a felt board; chenille stems; past bulletins. When worship is over, they can return the bag to the pink bucket. Next time you are in the narthex, check it out! There are no age limits! ;-)



Jan M. Russell (she/her)

Director of Children, Youth & Family Ministries

jan@good.org

952-452-9398

Sunday School

We will continue to have Sunday School for the elementary kiddos through the summer. We will continue using Deep Blue Life, but if it is a particularly nice day, we may pivot and go outside and do some fun summer activities. Drop in when you can!



Youth, rising 7th-12th graders, are invited to join in the second annual
Serve MSP
August 3-5, 2022

Register at campminnesota.org/campsessions; scroll to the **Off-Site Programs and Events**; click on **Serve MSP** to read description; then click on **Register** to access the online registration system. Jan is happy to help you get registered if you run into any issues.

Valleyfair

Jr. and Sr. High Youth Group
August 17

Let's kick off youth group with a trip to Valley Fair! Good Sam will pay the admission fee for you and a friend, you bring money for snacks. We will meet at the Good Sam lower parking lot at 1:30pm and be back to Good Sam about 9:30pm. Transportation provided! To sign up - www.signupgenius.com/go/4090A4AAEAA2CA31-valley

Missions

VEAP's Back to School Drive July 11-30, 2022



It's once again time for the VEAP Back to School Drive. Thousands of students in the Bloomington, Richfield, and Edina school districts need help filling their backpacks this fall. VEAP will be collecting items and distributing them to the school districts.

Backpacks, scientific computers and Bluetooth headphones are high-demand items and the most expensive for families to purchase on their own. Traditional supplies like spiral notebooks, crayons, glue sticks and washable markers are needed as well. Please make sure all items are new. Watch for sales during July for school supplies.



Supplies can be dropped off in a number of ways. They can be brought to church in the narthex area any time between July 1-30. Supplies will also be received at a drive-through at Good Samaritan Church on Thursday, July 21, during the hours of 9:00am-1:00pm. Volunteers will be there to receive your donations.

Supplies can also be dropped off at VEAP at 9600 Aldrich Ave S, Bloomington, Monday through Friday from 9:00am-4:30pm between July 11-30. Please drive to Door 4 where a volunteer will take the items right from your car.

If you wish to make a financial donation, please designate it specifically for VEAP's Back to School Drive. These donations will be used to purchase higher-priced items. Once those items are purchased any extra funds will go into the general VEAP operations.

Questions: Contact Sue Ohman at 952-994-5262.

Volunteer for Hearts & Hammers Program Day! Saturday, August 27, 2022

heartsandhammers.org

Hearts & Hammers is a local non-profit organization providing free exterior painting and maintenance assistance for income-qualified homeowners across the Twin Cities. They assist Senior Citizens, Disabled Individuals, Veterans of the US Armed Forces or their Surviving Spouse so they can continue living independently.



Home improvements are limited to exterior painting and minor repairs. The purpose of the work is to restore the character of the home and the surrounding neighborhood and improve the home's weatherproofing and security. The Program Day is expected to consist primarily of exterior home/garage preparation, scaping, priming, painting, and landscape renewal.

Other volunteers are needed to do repair and preparation work before the program day and you are invited to volunteer for that as well.

To register for the Good Samaritan project, please **contact Brian Boysen:(952) 937-0624, (612) 220-3795 or bteambackup@earthlink.net**. Please provide the following information: name, contact information, work preference. Go to the website below to review safety guidelines and electronically sign your waiver of liability. **Paper copies are not available on Program Day.**

Adults: heartsandhammers.org/adult-waiver

Youth (12yrs-17yrs): heartsandhammers.org/youth-waiver

Missions

Refugee Assistance

The Missions Team has been "befriending" Anahita and her six children from Afghanistan for several months by meeting with them almost every week to help them with groceries, rides, etc. We delivered bunk beds last month along with other furnishings - especially for the newborn baby. We also started tutoring them in English every week.

Helping is Good for You!

Volunteering your time, money, or energy to help others doesn't just make the world better - it also makes you better. Evidence shows that **helping others can also benefit our own mental health and wellbeing**. For example, it can **reduce stress** as well as **improve mood, self-esteem and happiness**. Studies indicate that the very act of giving back to the community **boosts your own health** and sense of well-being. There are so many ways to help others as part of our everyday lives. Good deeds needn't take much time or cost any money. Service makes you feel like **you are part of the solution**.
- Pat Deckas Becerra

Missionary Visit

Rev. Judith Banya is visiting this summer from Baiwalla, Sierra Leone and will explain her fascinating story at Hennepin Ave UMC in their Art Gallery on Sunday, July 31, at 11:15am. Through our Missions Team, Good Sam members have sent books and educational games to her school this past year and you can actually meet her now and learn about the scope of her Baiwalla ministry. She will tell her inspiring personal story of how she came to set up a multi-faceted ministry in the remote village of Baiwalla, where she grew up. Her ministry consists of a church, a school, a farm and a store - all of which help the economy of this little village.



FMSC

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

**Wednesday, July 13
9:00-10:45am**

Sign up with Jane Heimerl at jane.heimerl@yahoo.com by July 11.

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 Samaritans Doing Good

Sharing Music Around the World

Opera News highlighted Liv Redpath in its monthly "Sound Bites" column, which profiles an up-and-coming singer or conductor each month. Liv grew up at Good Sam (parents are David and Sigrid Redpath), and is now performing at some of the world's great opera houses.



She spent a season performing in Berlin, New York, at Switzerland's Verbier Festival, and in Munich at the Bavarian State Opera's production of Richard Strauss' "Der Rosenkavalier." In August, she will perform at Scotland's Edinburgh International Festival as featured soloist on George Frideric Handel's oratorio "Saul." And in September, Liv will sing the title role in Gaetano Donizetti's "Lucia di Lammermoor" with the Los Angeles Opera.

Join us in wishing Liv all the best as she shares her gift of music with so many people around the world.

Ride of a Lifetime

Matt and Josh Sabin are on a remarkable journey to celebrate Josh's graduation and completion of his Eagle Scout rank in BSA.

This father and son team are riding their bicycles from Seattle, Washington, to Washington, DC, this summer, in an effort to raise support and increase opportunities for youth in North Minneapolis to participate in high school mountain biking.

Their goal is to raise \$6,000. If you'd like to know more, please visit gofund.me/7212731a. Or to support Matt and Josh with protein bars or ice cream while they're on the road, send a contribution through Venmo to @masabin.

Follow their adventures on Instagram @patriotsmtb.



Thank You!

Greetings All,

I want to thank you all, especially Pablo, for sharing the incredible music of Asian Americans Pacific Islanders with the congregation at Good Sam during the month of May. I cannot put into words the impact this music had on me as I sat with the congregation each Sunday. By sharing the history of each piece, it opened my eyes to music that was written during times of joy, family times and struggles. The melodies and words showed such passion, love and resilience. I was entranced by the combination of melody and listening to the passion in the voices as they sang beautiful words I did not understand. This combination touched me deeply. I found myself brought to tears by the music, the beautiful harmony of the voices and the deep love each guest expressed for their individual dialects. What a wonderful gift you gave us all. Thank you all.

~ Joan Hursh

The Good Samaritan Foundation

Foundation Quarter 2 Update

The Good Samaritan Foundation Board met in May for its second quarter meeting.

The Foundation fund totals as of 05/17/2022 were: Outreach Fund \$274,965, The Cornerstone Fund \$23,507 and the Evergreen Fund \$169,354. The Investment Committee has continued to reposition the fund portfolios over the last six months in anticipation of unfavorable market conditions. Each fund has available cash for anticipated disbursements for the current year.

The Cornerstone Fund is to be used at the request of the Trustees for expenses and projects for improvements and repairs to the church building and grounds that are not in the annual budget. A payment of \$17,600 for 2021 repairs to exterior gas lines was requested and paid from the Cornerstone Fund.

A grant to support UNICEF efforts for children and youth in the Ukraine was discussed. UNICEF has field offices in several cities in the Ukraine and is working with partners there. A grant request of \$2,000 from the Outreach Fund was

circulated to Foundation Board members after the in-person meeting. The grant was approved by email meeting.

2023 is the 30th anniversary year of the Living Trust, which has become The Good Samaritan Foundation. There will be opportunities to learn more about the success of The Foundation and its importance to the financial stability of Good Samaritan beginning the fall of 2022 and throughout 2023.

Would you like to make a donation or legacy gift to The Good Samaritan Foundation? Gifts to The Good Samaritan Foundation can be provided through bequests in wills, trusts, memorials, life insurance, annuities, cash, stocks, bonds, and minimum required distributions. The Foundation cannot accept gifts of real estate. Any amount is welcome. With the help of your estate and/or tax advisor, gifts can be planned to take advantage of tax-reduction or deferral strategies to the donor, estate, or heirs. For more information, please contact Claudia Boysen at claudialboysen@gmail.com.

Finance Team

Financial Update

The table shows Good Samaritan's finances for the month of May and May year-to-date.

May 2022 current month Income of \$40,455 was above Plan by \$6,856. Yeah!!!! Expenses were slightly below Plan, also good. So the actual Net Income of (\$29,992), although unfavorable, is better than Plan by \$7,670.

May YTD Net Income is \$33,543 favorable, although \$19,627 less than planned for this time of year. This reflects YTD Income \$33,256 less than Plan, partially offset by YTD Expenses \$13,629 less, or favorable, to Plan.

Favorable (Unfavorable)	Current Month of May		May YTD	
	Actual	Plan	Actual	Plan
Income	\$40,455	\$33,599	\$330,007	\$363,263
Expenses	\$70,452	\$71,266	\$296,464	\$310,093
Net Income	(\$29,997)	(\$37,667)	\$33,543	\$53,170

Trustees

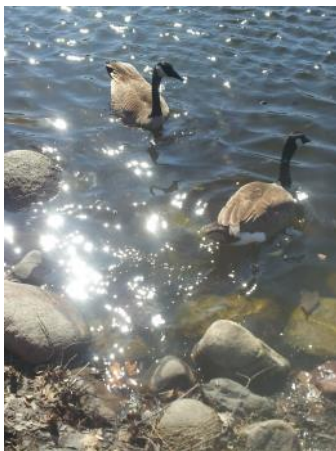
Maintenance Minute: A Trail You Can Take

In case you didn't know, Good Sam has a short hiking trail through the woods, which leads to a fire pit with benches! If you'd like to take a walk and check it out, you may get lucky and see some different wildlife along the way. You can access this trail at its opening, which is just north of the amphitheater, along the treeline.

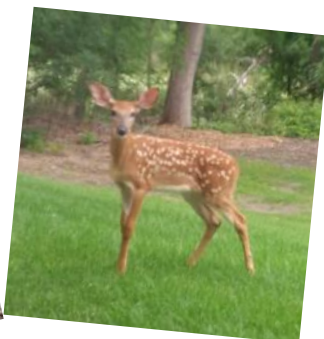
Dan Green
(he/him)
Building Engineer
danrg@good.org
612-889-4015



If you are potentially interested in having a fire there in the pit, we respectfully ask that you first request to use it by contacting Cindy at cindy@good.org or 952-929-0049. You will be expected to adhere to the rules implemented, per the Edina fire department which are also on a laminated sheet at the fire pit itself.



Wildlife Sightings





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

Nonprofit Organization

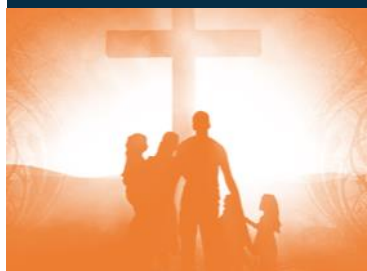
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OUR VISION

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