

October
2022

The Samaritan

Worship Themes

Throughout our fall focus on Stewardship, beginning October 16, we will be looking at our baptismal vows, using Adam Hamilton's book *The Walk* for perspective.

October 2 - "Bread for the World"/ World Communion Sunday

October 9 - "All My Relatives"

October 16 - "A Living Hallelujah: Worship and Prayer" /Foundation Sunday

October 23 - "Listening and Paying Attention: Study"

October 30 - "Where Your Treasure Is: Give"



Coffee & Dessert Social

Friday, November 11, 7:00pm
Featuring The Jumpin' Jehosafats

Join us for this social event in Fellowship Hall where there will be fine desserts and great music!



About our Musicians:

The Jumpin' Jehosafats have been blending traditional jazz and Gospel for more than 25 years, raising money for charity and lifting spirits. The men and women of this group, including several pastors, play up to thirteen instruments during any given concert - horns, piano, drums, strings, and flute among them - as well as sing together.

They have played community concerts, prisons, riverboats, churches, nursing homes, state fairs, and homeless shelters in the Upper Midwest, and also toured Haiti and Jamaica. The JJs have been featured artists with the Twin Cities Jazz Society Concert Series and played for numerous local, regional, and national events for the United Methodist Church.

They have released two CDs, the first entitled *I'm Movin' On* and the second *Blessed are the Peacemakers*, both with traditional and original tunes, the latter written by its members.

OUR STAFF

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Good Samaritan UMC

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Pastor's Page

Earlier this summer, I applied for a spot in the Leadership Center for Social Justice at United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities. This is a nine-month continuing education program funded through a Lilly Endowment Grant, and I'm pleased to announce that I was one of sixteen faith-based leaders selected for this inaugural cohort. We began our coursework on September 9, and I am excited now that this program is underway.

Already, I'm looking for your help by sharing your perspective through this survey link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GoodSamaritanUMC> or via the QR code to the right. It is completely anonymous, and every member of your household may take it; however, you may need to use different devices or otherwise open it in an incognito window of your web browser.



This survey is administered by Convergence, an organization with an "inclusive, progressive theological vision for a more just world for all." The survey is a critical part of a larger assessment Convergence is doing for us. This larger assessment includes an analysis of the survey, as well as information gleaned from newsletters and bulletins, annual reports, budget and cash flow, pictures of our church facility, previous assessments of our congregation, and typical demographic information, so it will give us very helpful information.

I can't stress enough how important it is that we hear from you! Because they want widespread input, Convergence has set the challenge for us to gather responses equal to 80% of our typical worship attendance, so please jump in and take the survey today. It typically takes 25-30 minutes to complete, and we're hoping to have our 80% participation rate by **October 19** so that we can move forward with the analysis and receive our results. Some congregations over the last two years have had participation above 90%, so let's see if we can do the same!

The nine-month program itself is going to be quite interesting. We are starting our work with a focus on sensing. One of my favorite definitions of social justice comes from the John Lewis Center for Social Justice: "Social justice is a communal effort dedicated to creating and sustaining a fair and equal society in which each person and all groups are valued and affirmed..."

This is very much the work of Jesus – to liberate the oppressed (Luke 4:18). And an important first step in this work is to use all our senses to understand the world around us – to observe – in an effort to better understand what isn't fair or equal in our world today, and to identify which persons and groups aren't valued or affirmed. What are you seeing or hearing, what senses are activated, in the world around you? I welcome your observations as we journey toward greater social justice together.

In faith and with anticipation,

Pastor Carol



Worship Arts & Online Engagement

Our Facebook Group is Growing Invite Your Friends!

We've planted the first seeds and now have 77 members. The initial phase of the Online Community has focused on current members of the Good Samaritan Congregation, and we're ready to begin reaching out to the wider community. In this next phase, we're hoping those of you who've joined our group will begin inviting Facebook friends to join. If you have friends interested in spirituality who may have another church home, it's great to invite them. However, with this group we're hoping to reach people who may not have a strong faith community connection.

As a church, we're seeking to reach out to those who have been hurt or disillusioned by the corporate church. We're looking to connect with people who may consider themselves more "spiritual" than "religious" or who have chosen not have a religious affiliation (sometimes referred to by demographers as "nones"). For our online worship and ministries, our goal is to reach people who may not be so likely to enter a church building (at least not at first). The Digital Team asks and invites you to think about people on your Facebook friends list who may fall into these categories and consider inviting them to join our group.

If you're already a member of our group, here are directions on how to invite new members.
To invite from within a group (adapted from Facebook website):

1. From your personal Feed, click **Groups** in the left menu and select your group. If you don't see **Groups**, click **See more**.
2. Click **+ Invite** below the cover photo.
3. Select **Invite Facebook friends**.
4. Select the names of the friends you want to invite. You can also type a friend's name in the search bar.
5. Click **Send invites**.

As we work to grow our online community, you can also help make it a more vibrant and welcoming space by interacting with our posts and conversations, and welcoming new group members when they join the group. If you haven't chosen to yet join our community on Facebook, I hope you'll consider doing so as a way to grow our church in the digital space. This group is completely private. Any post or comment you make is kept within the group and cannot be shared outside of it. You can join by following this link: www.facebook.com/groups/goodsamaritanumc

If you have your smartphone or tablet, you can scan this symbol with your device's camera to be directed to the group.

Thank you all for your continued support as we continue to grow our digital community!



Christian Nielsen
(he/him)

**Coordinator of
Worship Arts &
Online Engagement**

christian@good.org
952-452-9399



Music



Children's and Youth Advent Choir

Rehearsals begin Wednesday, October 5 from 6:00-7:00pm in the Children's Choir Room 155 in the Music Wing on the Lower Level. Singers will meet weekly through Christmas Eve and will participate in the Hanging of the Greens service on November 27, and the early Christmas Eve service, both at 4:00pm. Programming open to children and youth from 2nd-12th grade.

If you have further questions, contact director Jack Soden (soden006@umn.edu), Paolo (paolo@good.org) or Jan (jan@good.org). We hope to see you there!

We are in need of an **accompanist!** If you have a piano background and can graciously volunteer your time, reach out to Jack, Paolo, or Jan.

Lessons and Carols Project Choir!

Similar to last year's Easter project choir, we are opening our Lessons and Carols choir to singers who do not sing regularly with the chancel choir. The program will be presented in the evening of Saturday, December 17.

Rehearsals will take place at 7:00pm Wednesday evenings in the Choir Room 150, beginning November 9. If you are interested in being a part of this special advent musical offering, please contact Paolo at paolo@good.org.



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

Worship

COVID-Careful Seating in Sanctuary

The Church Council recently voted to eliminate the COVID-Careful Seating in the Sanctuary while remaining "facemask optional" in all seating areas. This change will take effect on the first Sunday of October. Please see Tony Branch or Pastor Carol with any questions or concerns.

Worship

A Call for Fellowship Hosts

Before Covid restrictions became the new norm, Fellowship Hall was a place to get to know your fellow Good Samaritan members while sharing a cup of coffee and a few good conversations after service. September 11 was Rally Day where coffee, lemonade, and donut holes were served with much fanfare for the first time since the start of Covid restrictions. We need help to keep the coffee and donut holes going!



The chance to offer up some strong hot coffee and some glazed donut holes to members is an honor worth the little effort it takes to get ready. Volunteer-

ing to serve members is an opportunity to meet and get to know more about the wonderful people here at Good Samaritan. But this task needs your support. So, grab a friend, spouse, or partner to be a part of the good things that happen every Sunday here at Good Samaritan. Training will be provided and arranged by contacting me at jelenjm@gmail.com

Sign up using Signup Genius at good.org/news-events/volunteer. There you will find the dates

and available slots for each Sunday service. The available slots are for two persons to serve coffee, lemonade, and donut holes and one person to clean cups. A full description of the duties involved are on Signup Genius, but basic duties include:



COFFEE AND LEMONADE SERVERS(2 persons) will pick up donut holes at Jerry's on Vernon and Hwy 100, make and set up coffee and lemonade, put out the cup racks, prepare a small table for coffee extras like cream and sugar, judge the amount of coffee needed (usually one full pot of regular and a half pot of decaf is adequate). Clean up afterwards.

CUP WASHER (1 person) will start up the automatic dishwasher, fill up a pan of warm soapy water for dirty cups, pre-clean the cups that have lipstick on them, place cups into the washer (see instructions on the wall), remove the empty racks as the cups get used, clean up tables, carafes and miscellaneous items that come in. Clean up the sinks and turn off the automatic dishwasher.

~Jeff Jelen

Sunday Morning Volunteer Opportunities

It takes many hands and hearts to be the church on Sunday mornings and we need yours! Consider all of the opportunities below to connect and share meaningful work with your church. See where you can plug in! Training will be provided.

Sign up on the church website: good.org/news-events/volunteer. Reach out to the folks below with questions.



- Sunday School Teachers - Jan Russell at jan@good.org
- Fellowship Hosts - Jeff Jelen at jelenjm@gmail.com (see above)
- Ushers - Janet Van Benthuyzen at jv.pandora@gmail.com
- AV Techs - Christian Nielsen at christian@good.org

Congregational Care

Explore Membership at Good Samaritan UMC

Are you curious about membership here at Good Sam? If so, come to a membership exploration class Wednesday, October 26, from 6:00-7:00 pm in the Fireside Room. We will talk about the United Methodist denomination and about the specific ministries here at Good Sam. Contact Pastor Carol (carol@good.org) with any questions.

Caregivers Support Group

Are you in a season of caregiving – perhaps for a spouse, or an aging parent, or a child or grandchild? Even with the love we bring to caregiving situations, the responsibility can feel heavy at times. Caregivers Support Group gives an opportunity to connect with others in similar situations. We meet in person the second Tuesdays of every month, from 6:00-7:00 pm in Room 200 (youth room off the Fellowship Hall). Our next meeting is October 12, and we hope to see you there. New members are welcome to come at any time. In Nikki's absence, please contact Pastor Carol (carol@good.org) with any questions.

Compassion Collective

This small group focuses on compassion for self and others. Research has shown that our brains have a negativity bias, meaning we're more sensitive to negative than to positive information. When evaluating others or ourselves, for instance, negative facts are given more weight than positive ones. Journey together with others in the Compassion Collective as we explore ways to remain more patient and loving toward ourselves and others. We meet the third Fridays of every month from 3:30-5:00 pm. This group is open to newcomers, so please join us if you'd like. Contact Pastor Carol (carol@good.org) for more information while Nikki is out on maternity leave.

When I am Among the Trees by Mary Oliver

When I am among the trees,
especially the willows and the honey locust,
equally the beech, the oaks and the pines,
they give off such hints of gladness.
I would almost say that they save me, and daily.

I am so distant from the hope of myself,
in which I have goodness, and discernment,
and never hurry through the world
but walk slowly, and bow often.

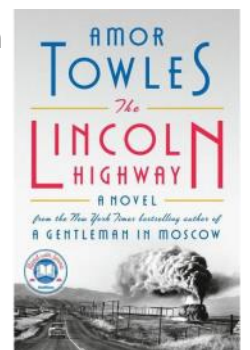
Around me the trees stir in their leaves
and call out, "Stay awhile."
The light flows from their branches.

And they call again, "It's simple," they say,
"and you too have come
into the world to do this, to go easy, to be filled
with light, and to shine."



Thursday Afternoon Book Group

The next meeting will be on Thursday, October 13 at 1:00pm in the Fireside Room. Our discussion title is *The Lincoln Highway* by Amor Towles. It is a story centered on three young men as they travel along the Lincoln Highway from Morgan, Nebraska to Manhattan in 1954. Please join us for good conversation, along with fellowship and treats! Questions: please contact Vicki Dunn, victoria.dunn@q.com (952-930-3431)



Children, Youth & Family Ministries

Hello Families! I found this article from Rev. Traci Smith really insightful. I would love to hear your thoughts. ~Jan

Showing Hospitality: A Spiritual Practice

by Traci Smith

I remember an older woman in my congregation many years ago telling me that if she had a few tea bags, a loaf of bread, and some jelly, she would always be ready for company. "Tea and toast," she said. "Tea and toast." The art of inviting people into our homes is changing, I think. We are "connected" through social media and work, and it feels like enough, but is it? The pandemic shutdown pushed us further into isolation and now we're thawing out, flowers in water.

I've been thinking a lot about what it means to open up my home to others and the reasons I don't do it more often. The house is too messy. What would I serve? My couches are old and they don't match. And yet every time I take a risk and invite others over, they have a wonderful time. We laugh and enjoy good food. Nobody mentions the fact that the couches don't match.



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

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Teaching children that homes are meant to be shared is a great gift, as well. It brings connection and joy. Hospitality is about the guest, not the host. It's about trying to make someone feel welcome and comfortable.

Bread and water can so easily be toast and tea - simple things become beautiful with a lot of love. Give thanks to God for the gift of friends and strangers - it's all gratitude and grace. The Bible says that by hosting friends, sometimes we entertain angels without knowing it. Opening your home can feel like opening up your heart, but the rewards can be great. How are you opening your heart to visitors and friends? Do you have some bread and water? It is enough.

It's Care Package Time!



Parents of young adults – It's care package time! Please send Jan (jan@good.org) your 18-24-year old's address (gap-year, college, grad school, working, or enlisted military). Wherever they are on their journey, we want them to know that Good Sam is with them!

GOOD SAMARITAN UMC
**DRIVE THRU
MINI BOO!**
DRIVE THROUGH THE PORTICO
FOR A GOODIE BAG!
OCTOBER 31
4PM - 6PM
WWW.GOOD.ORG

Children's & Youth Advent Choir



Starts October 5
(see page 4)



Hanging of the Greens

November 27, 4:00pm

Missions

Befriending an Afghan Family

Several months ago, the Missions Team went through training and background checks and began supporting an Afghan family of seven in Eden Prairie. The mother's name is Anahita and her husband has not been able to leave their country. She was a policewoman in Afghanistan but when she saw two of her fellow policewomen beheaded by the Taliban, who don't want women to work or to be educated, she fled last November with her five children and gave birth to her sixth child this April. The family doesn't speak English and cannot drive.

JoAnn Knutson and Pat Deckas Becerra have been tutoring them and/or taking them shopping almost weekly for over four months. We've lined up a third tutor (for the three oldest girls) and two interpreters who speak Farsi. Brian Boyson and Roy Moeller have delivered many furnishings to them on various occasions, like bunk beds, tables, desks, rugs, cribs, clothing, toys, food, etc. that our dear congregation and other neighbors have so kindly donated. We are also helping them with the rent, along with a Mormon Church, Minnesota Council of Churches Refugee Services, and a Muslim organization,

Anahita just got a full-time job (50 hours a week!) so her main concern now is daycare for the baby and the 3-year-old since the girls, aged 5, 11, 13, and 14, are back in school. Daycares near them are full now, so if you know how to help with this, please let the Mission Team know. To learn more about what refugees go through, please go to this link from NPR:

www.npr.org/2022/01/25/1068149767/virginia-afghanistan-refugee-family-america

~ Pat Deckas Becerra

Thank You for Helping Us Help Afghan Families

The generosity of Good Samaritan and our ability to work with the Refugee Services team at the Minnesota



MINNESOTA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES
Refugee Services

Council of Churches has allowed us to assist Afghan families in getting established in Minnesota in 2022. Donations of furniture and household goods, the use of the van and trailer, volunteers and support from neighbors of Good Samaritan came together and made a difference. Needs continue to arise. If you are interested in assisting please contact Pat Deckas Becerra (952) 929-1428 or JoAnn Knutson (952) 920-8265.

Meals on Wheels



Each month Good Sam provides drivers for Metro Meals on Wheels and several weeks ago our drivers needed to step up and fill in at the last minute for more routes on other days. We'd love to have more drivers willing to devote an hour and a half once a month to help. This forty year old community based service provides fresh, nutritious meals delivered directly to the homes of seniors and individuals with disabilities throughout the Twin Cities. In 2021, 10,607 neighbors received 470,575 meals. In addition to regularly providing healthy foods, caring volunteers provide a social connection that helps meal recipients remain living independently in their own homes. In the Twin Cities, 69% say that the delivery person is sometimes the only person they see all day. More information can be found at www.meals-on-wheels.com.

If you would like to be a part of our Good Sam team, please contact Vicki Dunn, (952) 930-3431, victoria.dunn@q.com.

Missions



Feed My Starving Children

Volunteer at the Chanhassen site (18932 Lake Dr E)

**Friday, October 7
from 7:00-8:45pm**

**Wednesday, October 12
from 9:00-10:45am**

Sign up with Jane Heimerl at jane.heimerl@yahoo.com by two days before.

Helping Two Stonebridge Families

Good Sam has been partnering with Stonebridge World School, an inner-city school in Minneapolis, for 30 years. A team from Good Sam runs their library and supplies the books. We're in contact with their social worker who informs us about families who are in need of help. This fall we're financially helping a Hispanic family who volunteers at the school and has three kids at Stonebridge - the father, who was out of work for a while, is now back as a full-time carpenter, but needs \$2,000 to get caught up on the rent. A second Stonebridge family needs to move out of a place where they feel unsafe so we're helping with \$1,150 for the first month's rent in a new place. We always vet these families and send the money directly to the landlords. We're so glad that your generosity allows us to continue this important work. Thank you so very much.



~ Pat Deckas Becerra

Joyce Uptown Foodshelf Harvest Walk For Hunger

Good Samaritan has provided financial and volunteer support to Joyce Uptown Foodshelf for many years. Tony Branch from our congregation currently serves as a board member and volunteer.



In the face of rising food costs and rising need, Joyce Uptown Foodshelf has increased the amount of food they send into the community. In June 2022 - their biggest month ever - they distributed 55,725 pounds of food to 889 families. This represents an increase of 65% over 2021 and 182% over 2019.

Create a team and join them at the Harvest Walk for Hunger on Saturday morning, October 15th at 9:00 am at the Greenway Lakes Commons behind Rustica Bakery - or come to participate and sign up at the event! More information at <https://www.joyceuptownfoodshelf.org/harvestwalk>

Or connect to the Give MN fundraising page by using this link: www.givemn.org/event/Fallharvest



SPRC

Holiday and Year End Worship Schedule

If you've looked ahead at the calendar, you may have noticed that Christmas Day and New Year's Day both fall on Sundays this year. Good Samaritan UMC has historically sought to help our staff maintain a good work/life balance. In recognition of this, along with reduced attendance that is typical of holiday weekends, SPRC along with Church Council, made a decision to offer only online worship on December 25, 2022 (Christmas Day) and January 1, 2023 (New Years Day). Online worship services will be available at 10:00 am both Sundays on our website (good.org/watch) and on our Facebook page.

In addition, we'll host a Zoom call at 11:00 am both Christmas and New Year's Day for anyone who wishes to check in or greet their church friends virtually. The Zoom link will be publicized as the time approaches. Thank you for joining us in supporting holiday time for everyone, congregation and staff alike. Of course, we look forward to three Christmas Eve worship services (4:00 pm Family Christmas, 7:00 pm Online, and 9:00 pm Candlelight Christmas), so online-only worship Sunday morning on Christmas Day and New Year's Day will be a nice way to enable staff to have family time. Please contact SPRC Chair Caroline Carlin (carolinescarlin@gmail.com), or Church Council Chair Tony Branch (tony.branch@medtronic.com) with questions.

Marketing

November 8 Election

Good Sam is one of Edina's voting venues. To make this event the success it was before the onslaught of COVID, we need your help. We will return to greeting the voters, as well as providing coffee, lemonade, and freshly baked cookies throughout the day. We will also provide lunch and dinner for the election judges and our staff.



There will be opportunities for a lot of us to participate and demonstrate our radical hospitality. The precinct boundaries have changed so some new folks will come through the Church. The polls are open from 7:00am-8:00pm, so set some hours of the day aside and more information will come at a later date. Please call Dave Knutson at 612-859-2940 with any questions.

Finance Team

Financial Update

The table shows Good Samaritan's finances through August 2022. We had more expenses than income in August. We are behind on our budget plan by \$74,819 Year to date. A major contributor to this shortfall has been the rising cost of everything, but especially of utilities (natural gas and electricity). We are already over our annual gas budget for heating by \$4,000 (30%), and we still have 4 (colder) months to go. This is an unexpected hit, and we appreciate your continued support as we work to meet our budget. To give towards your pledge, or make a one-time gift, please go to www.good.org/give. ~ Dave Redpath

The Good Samaritan Foundation

Foundation Sunday, October 16



2023 is the 30th anniversary year of the Living Trust, which became The Good Samaritan Foundation in 2010. We will be learning 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.

An information session about The Foundation and ways to make a donation or legacy gift is being offered on Foundation Sunday, October 16, immediately following the worship service. Steve Kumagai will lead the session. Plan now to attend to consider how you can be an integral part of this great asset for our church. For more information, please contact Claudia Boysen at claudialboysen@gmail.com.

Quarterly Meeting Update

The Good Samaritan Foundation Board met in August for its third quarter meeting.

The Foundation fund totals as of 08/10/2022 were:

- The Outreach Fund \$275,175
- The Cornerstone Fund \$23,524
- The Evergreen Fund \$171,700.

The Investment Committee has continued to reposition the fund portfolios during this year of unpredictable market conditions.

The Finance Committee requested their annual allotment from the Evergreen Fund of \$9000 in support of the operating budget. No requests were needed by the Trustees from The Cornerstone Fund for any projects of the church grounds or building repairs not covered by their budget. There were no requests for grants from the Outreach Fund. A total of \$4,500 has been disbursed in 2022 with \$10,385 remaining for the year.

Members of Good Samaritan may make a grant request to provide resources for emerging ministries, missions, and special projects that are consistent with our mission as a Christian community of acceptance, nurturing faith, and reaching out to our church, our community, and the world. A grant application is available on the good.org website or use the link good.org/give/give/the-foundation/request-grant/. The Foundation Board will meet again on November 17.

~Claudia Boysen



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

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OUR VISION

INSPIRING
Joyful Faith

BUILDING
a Loving
Community

SERVING
Neighbors Near
and Far

SUNDAYS

Worship

10:00am (In-person and Online)

Nursery

9:45-11:30am, Infants - Age 3

Sunday School

Held during worship following
Children's Time. All are welcome!

WEDNESDAYS

(Nursery open from 5:45-9:00pm)

6:00pm

- Chancel Chimes Rehearsal
- Caregivers (2nd Wednesdays)
- Children/Youth Choir
- Conversation with Pastor Carol (1st & 3rd Wednesdays)

7:00pm

- Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- Youth Activities

GOOD SAMARITAN OFFICE HOURS

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