

May
2023

The Samaritan

Worship Themes

May 7 -
Easter People: Peter

May 14 -
Easter People: Lydia /
Mother's Day

May 21 -
Easter People: Philip &
Simon / Confirmation

May 28 - Pentecost /
Birth of the Church



When We Breathe Together *A Pentecost Poem by Jan Richardson*

This is the blessing
we cannot speak
by ourselves.

This is the blessing
we cannot summon
by our own devices,
cannot shape
to our own purposes,
cannot bend
to our own will.

This is the blessing
that comes
when we leave behind
our aloneness,
when we gather
together,
when we turn
toward one another.

This is the blessing
that blazes among us
when we speak
the words
strange to our ears,

when we finally listen
into the chaos,

when we breathe together
at last.

OUR STAFF

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Pastor's Page

After worship on a Sunday not long ago, I was asked, "How do you experience the breath of God?" I think the question may have come from curiosity during a kindness meditation or a breathing exercise from the Sharing God's Peace that day. Regardless, I appreciated the question.

My initial thoughts were that the breath of God is all around us, available in our breathing in and breathing out; yet not exclusively mine because the air I breathe is also the air you breathe. It is life-giving. And it brings courage and strength.

Ruach is the Hebrew word used in scripture for the breath of God. At times, it is also translated as Spirit of God, wind, and life.

Author Adriel Booker suggests that *Ruach* is not so much a physical force, but an essence - **God's essence that sustains life.** This certainly resonates with me. I always figured that *Ruach* cannot be contained or confined, and it is always there, even in times when you feel you can't catch a breath.

I've been enjoying Jan Richardson's book *Circle of Grace*. There's a poem there entitled "Where the Breath Begins" that I'd like to share here:

Dry
and dry
and dry
in each direction.

Dust dry.
Desert dry.
Bone dry.

And here
in your own heart:
dry,
the center of your chest
a bare valley
stretching out
every way you turn.

Did you think
this was where
you had come to die?

It's true that
you may need
to do some crumbling,
yes.

That some things
you have protected
may want to be
laid bare,
yes.
That you will be asked
to let go
and let go,
yes.

But listen
This is what
a desert is for.

If you have come here
desolate,
If you have come here
deflated,
then thank your lucky stars
the desert is where
you have landed—
here where it is hard
to hide,

here where it is unwise
to rely on your own devices,
here where you will
have to look
and look again
and look close,
to find what refreshment waits
to reveal itself of you.

I tell you,
though it may be hard
to see it now,
this is where
your greatest blessing
will find you.

I tell you,
this is where
you will receive
your life again.

I tell you,
this is where
the breath begins.



I think this caught my eye because it serves as a reminder that *Ruach*, God's Spirit, God's breath, life itself, is even present where it seems like it can't be...amid the dust dry, the desert dry, the bone dry. So how do you experience the breath of God? Turns out there isn't anywhere we don't. So let's enjoy every breath of it.

Pastor Carol

Staff Parish Relations (SPRC)

Pastoral Transition News

Editor's Note: On Friday, April 21, it was announced that Bishop Lanette Plambeck intends to appoint Pastor Carol as the Assistant to the Bishop for Connectional Ministries, effective fourteen months from now, on July 1, 2024. This announcement was also made during in-person worship April 23, with additional remarks offered by SPRC Chair, Caroline Carlin (shared below). While we are saddened by this news, we also recognize the skills in Pastor Carol that will be valuable for her new role, and are grateful for fourteen more months together.

Reflection by Caroline Carlin

When I heard this news on Tuesday morning, I **was pretty weepy**. Anyone who's spoken with me even five minutes about Pastor Carol knows how much I love and admire her.

But it was pretty clear why she has been tapped for this appointment. As Assistant to the Bishop for Connectional Ministries, Pastor Carol will focus on three things: keeping Conference activities aligned with overall vision, auditing systems and strategies for effectiveness and vision alignment, and strengthening the connection from the Conference to the **general church**. You've all experienced her thoughtful theology and deep faith through sermons and Bible studies. Importantly, given all that happened to us through the pandemic, she has the ability to name hard truths and help us move forward. Those of us who have worked with her behind the scenes know her skill with process improvement and her eye for synergies. These are the skills the Conference saw and needs right now to strengthen their operations and deepen their connections with the local churches.

So what does that mean for us? We first need to remember that optimism is not necessarily **an innate trait, but a learned skill**. I'm not asking you to deny your true emotion, but remember the words we use matter. How we speak of this among ourselves influences the mood of the congregation and the climate a visitor senses when they walk through our door. Take a moment to be grateful for having Pastor

Carol's leadership just when we needed it to stabilize and heal, and to be ready for our next stage of growth. When you're feeling overwhelmed by change, practice the **imaging techniques we've learned from her** during the Passing of the Peace.

Next, I am grateful to the Bishop for letting us know her intention while we still have more than a year to work with Pastor Carol. We can continue to work under her leadership, beginning with the brainstorming session on April 29, to start defining our strategy for post-pandemic growth. **Only travel for a friend's memorial is keeping me from participating in that important session.** We have a few more behind-the-scenes operational improvements we'll finalize over the next year, so our new leader won't have to deal with dysfunctional systems and can hit the ground running, and lead us forward toward that growth.

How will that new leader be appointed? We have been told of a few modifications to the usual process that will give your Staff-Parish Relations Committee unusual levels of input into the matching process. Pastor Carol herself will have influence. She knows the needs of our congregation and already has some ideas for colleagues that would be a good match for us. Importantly, we have been told that the new pastor will be appointed early in the 2024 process so that they can start onboarding with us as early as March, to ensure a seamless transition.

I am grateful that the Bishop came in person to deliver the news to SPRC this past week, rather than having the news delivered by Pastor Carol herself or through our District Superintendent. **That, and Bishop Plambeck's presence with us May 7, show that the Conference understands deeply what they are asking of us.** Knowing how much this opportunity aligns with Pastor Carol's own call to serve, we have to let her go with an open heart. Know that God is leading us toward our future.

~Caroline Carlin, SPRC Chair

Music

Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month

Greetings Good Samaritans! It's been a wonderful year of music at Good Sam, and some of the best is still yet to come! I'm very excited to share with you what's in store for our 2023 AAPI Celebrations!

"AAPI?"

Since 2009, the month of May has been recognized as national Asian American/Pacific Islander (AAPI) month, a time to reflect on and recognize the contributions AAPI people have throughout the country's history. Last year, Good Sam began commemorating AAPI month by inviting guest artists to share their experiences with the choir and congregation, and we are excited to be continuing and building on it in year two!

What to expect

One thing that made our AAPI celebrations so meaningful last year was a shared understanding of the project's purpose and guiding principles. Like last year, I've asked our guest artists to reflect honestly and authentically on how their AAPI identity has impacted their lived experiences, and to bring the music and stories that come out of that reflection. I believe (somewhat paradoxically) that by centering our collaboration around individual connection and expression instead of education or cultural exchange, we will actually learn more!

Put another way, I invite every member of our community to come engaged and open-minded, ready to hear our guests' musical responses to the question "What has being AAPI meant to you?"

Creating and sharing this programming is some of the most personally meaningful and affirming musical work I've done, and I am so grateful for the community of Good Samaritans that make it possible. I'm looking forward to some great music!

Guest Artists

We have a sensational group of artists coming to work with us this year, including Alex Nishibun, Adrianna Tam, Walter Tambor, and Jeremy Wong! They will collaborate with the Chancel Choir and me in presenting "A Thousand Tongues", a joint recital of solo and ensemble music, and all four will be present to share even more during in-person worship May 7 (schedule info below).

Events

- Saturday, May 6 @ 7pm: "A Thousand Tongues"
This special concert will feature all of our guest artists and the chancel choir in a mix of solo and ensemble musical pieces. You will not want to miss this unique performance! There will be a free-will offering and a reception following the concert.
- Sunday, May 7 @10am: In-person worship with guest artists
- Sunday, May 28 @ 10am: In-person worship with AAPI music

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Congregational Care

Congregational Comment: Stand Your Sacred Ground

"If we could see the miracle of a single flower clearly, our whole life would change." - Buddha

Recently I was accompanying someone amidst a difficult situation at work. As she prepared to enter a meeting that was full of uncertainty

and limited agency for her, I offered one of social worker and qualitative researcher Brene Brown's go-to mantras: *Don't puff up. Don't shrink. Stand your Sacred Ground.*

We may each interpret the meaning of this differently. To me, I take it as a reminder to not move to arrogance or condescension, but rather to stay humble, even when my urge for self-protection is strong. Simultaneously, it serves as permission to not become less than I am, to not minimize my voice or hide my authentic self, experience, or knowing. Instead, the invitation is to stand true to my own integrity, my own wisdom, my own authority, my own worthiness. It turns out, we can stand solidly in our integrity and worthiness while neither belittling others or losing our own sense of self. This can be hard, it can take practice, loads of practice, but it is possible.



I think watching flowers in the spring can be a perfect reminder of how to do this. Whether a tulip, a poppy, or a rose, flowers cannot make themselves bigger or **bolder than they are; they also don't hide themselves or cower in another's** presence. They simply grow as they are meant to and they display their own unique splendor whether anyone else is paying attention or not.

The gift in this for us is that when we're able to simply be as we were born to be, we may find that we are consequently less attached to the outcome of any given situation. A meeting, negotiation, or conversation may not go as hoped, and yet, if we can step away feeling as if we personally stood our own sacred ground while remaining open to the offerings of others, we may find that the outcomes feel less impactful. Surely, this does not protect us from the experience of grief or disappointment in the face of an unwanted result, but it may just free us from unnecessary resentment, guilt, or shame, as an added burden to bear. As such, it may help us to move forward with greater acceptance and peace.

And so, whatever the days ahead hold for you, whatever your expectations or visions for how things should be or how things should do, I hope that at the very least you are able to find and stand your own sacred ground more often than not. As we each stand in our own integrity, authenticity, humanity, and divinity, I hope we are the better and the freer for it.

In totality, I hope you are able to see the miracle of a single flower clearly AND the miracle that is you in your truest form.

In light and in love,
Nikki

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



Flowers in Good Sam's
Peace Garden
are starting to bloom!

Congregational Care

Awaken Your Intuition Workshop

Please join us to explore your intuition with friends old and new. In this workshop, Nikki Holm will lead us in a guided visualization and an intuitive spiritual practice from the workbook *Sacred Intuition - Book II* by Karen Boileau.

We will be gathering Tuesday, May 9, 2023, from 9:30-11:30am in the Fireside room. Handouts, colored pencils, coffee and light snacks will be provided.

RSVPs to Nikki by May 2 would be appreciated for planning purposes, however, walk-ins are welcome.

Thursday Afternoon Book Group May Meeting

Our next meeting is May 11 at 1:00pm in the Fireside Room.

We will discuss "The Vanishing Half" by Brit Bennett, a novel that chronicles the lives of twin sisters whose choices at 16 sever their close relationship and change the course of their lives.



Please join us for fellowship and refreshments. Questions: Contact Vicki Dunn, 952-930-3431, victoria.dunn@q.com.

Appalachia Service Project

ASP Worksite Announcement

ASP locations include the states of Kentucky, West Virginia, Virginia, North Carolina and Tennessee.

This year we will be in Harlan County, Kentucky from July 21-30! Harlan County is a county located in southeastern Kentucky. As of the 2020 census, the population was 26,831. (For reference the population of Hennepin County is 1.26 million people.) The county seat is Harlan. Harlan County is well known in folk and country music, having produced many prominent musicians.



Harlan County is the site of the famous strike at the Brookside mine in 1973. Brookside is about half way between Harlan and Evarts. There is an outstanding Academy Award winning documentary about the strike: "Harlan County U.S.A." This film is excellent background for understanding the history of the area. You can watch the full documentary on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qhvTD2dSwVM>

The decline of the mining industry has had a devastating impact to the county. The loss of jobs resulted in a steadily declining population and depressed economy. Harlan became one of the poorest counties in the United States.

The last time we were in Harlan County was 2008, when our team worked on the home of a former mine worker. Every year, 350 families helped through ASP, with 3,000 repair projects completed. This takes more than 15,000 volunteers.

We don't know the specific family we will be working with yet this year. Please keep the ASP families and the Mission Team in your prayers. Thank you. ~ Jan Russell

Children, Youth and Family Ministries

Jan M. Russell (she/her)

Director of Children, Youth & Family Ministries

jan@good.org

952-452-9398



Vacation Bible School - June 26-29, 2023

Register now at <https://goodsamaritanedina.mycokesburyvbs.com/>

Ready for some fun with the ultimate hero team? Hero Hotline VBS invites children to answer the call to serve God together. Join the Professor and Super Meer each day from 9:00-4:00 as young Heroes learn to strive for the things that bring peace and the things that build each other up. This VBS opens kids' eyes to the countless ways God provides for Bible Heroes through teams of supporting Bible Heroes who help make the mission possible through following Jesus, Helping Others, Working Together, Listening to God, and Showing Grace. Bring a friend, reconnect with your friends, and make new friends, too! Hennepin Ave UMC will be our co-hosts as we move our VBS outdoors and explore all of the outdoor space that Good Sam has to offer!



This adventure is for kids ages 3 years-4th grade. We welcome kids 5th grade and older as Youth Leaders, and we need Adult Helpers, too!

Participants will need to bring a water bottle and a sack lunch each day. Cost for VBS is \$55 for 1 child/\$100 for a family. Scholarships available (contact Jan with questions).

Adaptive Vacation Bible Camp - August 7-10, 2023



We are partnering with Eden Prairie UMC at their location to offer an Adaptive Summer Bible Camp entitled "Operation Restoration." This experience supports kids ages 3 1/2 and older with social, communication, and sensory needs. Children will enjoy games, fun and creative learning with trained volunteers. There is no charge for this camp. Registration is open. Contact Jan to register.



RESURRECTION PRACTICES

- 1 Hang a Rainbow Prism
- 2 Plant Vegetables
- 3 Compost Food Scraps
- 4 Make Something New from Your Trash
- 5 Give Flowers to Your Neighbors
- 6 Look for Butterflies
- 7 Read John 21:1-17

The time between Easter and Pentecost is an opportunity to think about Easter not just as one day, but as a whole season. Do one of these activities this Spring and experience the Risen Christ in a new way.



www.TraciSmith.com

Missions Team



Service Opportunity

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

Wednesday, May 10—9:00-11:45am

Sign up with Jane Heimerl at
jane.heimerl@yahoo.com
by May 8. Space is limited!

Minnesota FoodShare Month Recap

A heartfelt thank you to all for your generous donations to the Joyce Uptown Food Shelf and to VEAP during the March Food Share Drive.

Monetary donations to Joyce Uptown were \$5,205.69 and to VEAP \$5,390.70, for a total of \$10,596.39. This amount will also receive some matching funds from Minnesota Food Share.

The donations of food, personal items and light bulbs was 84.5 pounds to Joyce Uptown Food Shelf (A small amount more to be delivered.) and 97 pounds to VEAP for a total of 181.5 pounds.

Together we do make a difference and the donations are greatly needed and appreciated.

~Sue Ohman

News from UMCOR in Ukraine

We have been receiving reports from United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) about their efforts in Ukraine. This is made possible with support from our congregation and others across the denomination.

Mykolaiv, a city in southern Ukraine, is the location of continued air raids. Its residents are never safe from rockets, artillery and cluster bombs. Of the tens of thousands of people who remain there, some are previous evacuees who re-

turned once their finances ran out. UMCOR is distributing pre-cooked ready-to-eat meals complete with utensils, medical resources and other humanitarian relief to survivors hiding in basements and bomb shelters there.

Maryna sought help from a local UMCOR relief center. She had stayed in her hometown as long as she could. Once her house lost access to water, electricity and gas, she packed up her children and fled to Dnipro in eastern Ukraine. UMCOR gave her food, clothing and medicine, while also connecting her to social workers, psychologists, and lawyers.

"Before I started visiting the center, my life was very difficult," Maryna said. "I had a feeling nobody cared about me and my children, and I did not know who to approach for help. The center became a place where I started feeling secure and where I discovered that I too can also help others in my community."

Olexander Vlah, a 79-year-old widower, lives in the Bolhrad Municipality's Reception Center in southwestern Ukraine. Sadly, Mr. Vlah's three sons all died in Mariupol, which endured three months of heavy fighting as the siege by Russian forces began in February 2022. Once a week, Mr. Vlah visits a food distribution center in Bolhrad and receives free food to last until his next visit. He is one of many senior Ukrainians who lack income and family assistance and who receive vital aid from UMCOR. This is support enabled by your help.

Since the war on Ukraine began, more than 20 million people have fled for other parts of the world, while 6.5 million, including 1.2 million children, have remained.

UMCOR is there, providing hope, to those who need it most, thanks to the generosity of United Methodists around the world.



The Good Samaritan Foundation

Foundation Challenge



The Board of Directors of The Good Samaritan Foundation will be meeting Thursday, May 18. Do you have a suggestion for a non-profit organization to receive a grant from The Outreach Fund? Please contact Claudia at claudiaLboysen@gmail.com or go online to <https://good.org/give/give/the-foundation/> for more information.

Thirty years of giving is something to celebrate! The Good Samaritan Foundation has been doing just that since 1993. Do you remember that The Foundation Board of Directors has put forth a 30th anniversary challenge of raising \$30,000 in 2023? We're very pleased to let you know that we are a little more than one third of the way there with donations totaling \$11,320.

We've also received a matching grant of up to \$10,000 to help us on the way to the remaining amount needed for our 30th anniversary goal. So from this point forward during our 30th anniversary year, any additional contributions to The Foundation up to \$10,000 will be matched dollar for dollar by this matching grant. All contributions, big and small, will help us reach our full matching grant potential. Thank you for your help!

Donations to the Evergreen Fund help support our operating budget. Donations to the Cornerstone Fund support maintenance of our building and grounds, and donations to the Outreach Fund support those in need locally, nationally and globally. Pick up a Foundation brochure on the Welcome Table in the narthex or the table outside the Church Office to learn more.

~Claudia Boysen

Finance Team

Finance Update

Here is our table of financial results through the end of March. As mentioned before, our church often starts the year with pledges received the prior year (2023 pledges paid at the end of 2022), inflating our YTD numbers, while giving us a "cash cushion" for the first half of the year.

We are managing expenses well – and have solid income from Facility Use fees. We are, however, short on Pledged Income to budget.

If you have not yet turned in a 2023 pledge card – it is NOT too late, Go to <https://good.org/give/make-a-pledge/>. Thank you to all for your continued support of Good Samaritan.

~Dave Kuhn

	April Actuals	April Plan	Year-to-Date
Income	\$ 42,968	\$ 35,124	\$ 195,421
Expense	\$ 58,294	\$ 56,652	\$ 168,211
Net	\$ -15,326	\$ - 21,528	\$ 27,209

Ministry Update

Happy Easter Good Samaritan Friends!

I pray this Easter greeting finds you well and living in the promise of Christ as Easter people. It has been almost a year since I have worshipped with you all! In July 2022, soon after you affirmed my call to ministry, I was assigned to Newport UMC and called to Community UCC. I serve one congregation made up of two denominations, which has been a good joy and a lot of paperwork!

This past year together the congregation has launched a monthly Confirmation program, made significant building improvements, tended to their membership directory, began fostering deeper relationships with our Head Start preschool families, and is in the process of starting a stewardship campaign! We have more than doubled our worship attendance from a year ago and have four baptisms on the horizon. The Spirit remains at work in and through us all.

I have been leaning into and learning this first year of pastoral leadership about all the things that a United Methodist pastor should know and do. If you haven't thanked a pastor lately - it's a good idea. We love to hear that the work we do is appreciated. So much of what pastors do is rarely spoken of, seen, or heard. Thankfully, as pastors, we serve in Christ's name and not for the recognition.

The challenges people are facing today remain great. Families are strained, finances are difficult and people are just that - people. We are all fragile, have feelings, and feel pain. We experience loss and tragedy, and all of us desire to feel loved. So, this first year of ministry my goal has been just that. To love people like their lives mattered to God - because they do. None of us are called to live the life of Jesus Christ, but we are called to love like Jesus. When you dare to love like Jesus be prepared to see hearts come alive, relationships transformed and brokenness healed.

Thank you, Good Samaritan, for sending me out to love all people in Jesus' name and for the good of the United Methodist Church that we so love. I commit to doing just that with everything I've got and will do so as often as I can, with whomever I can, as long as I can. I pray that you do as well because we are all worth it!

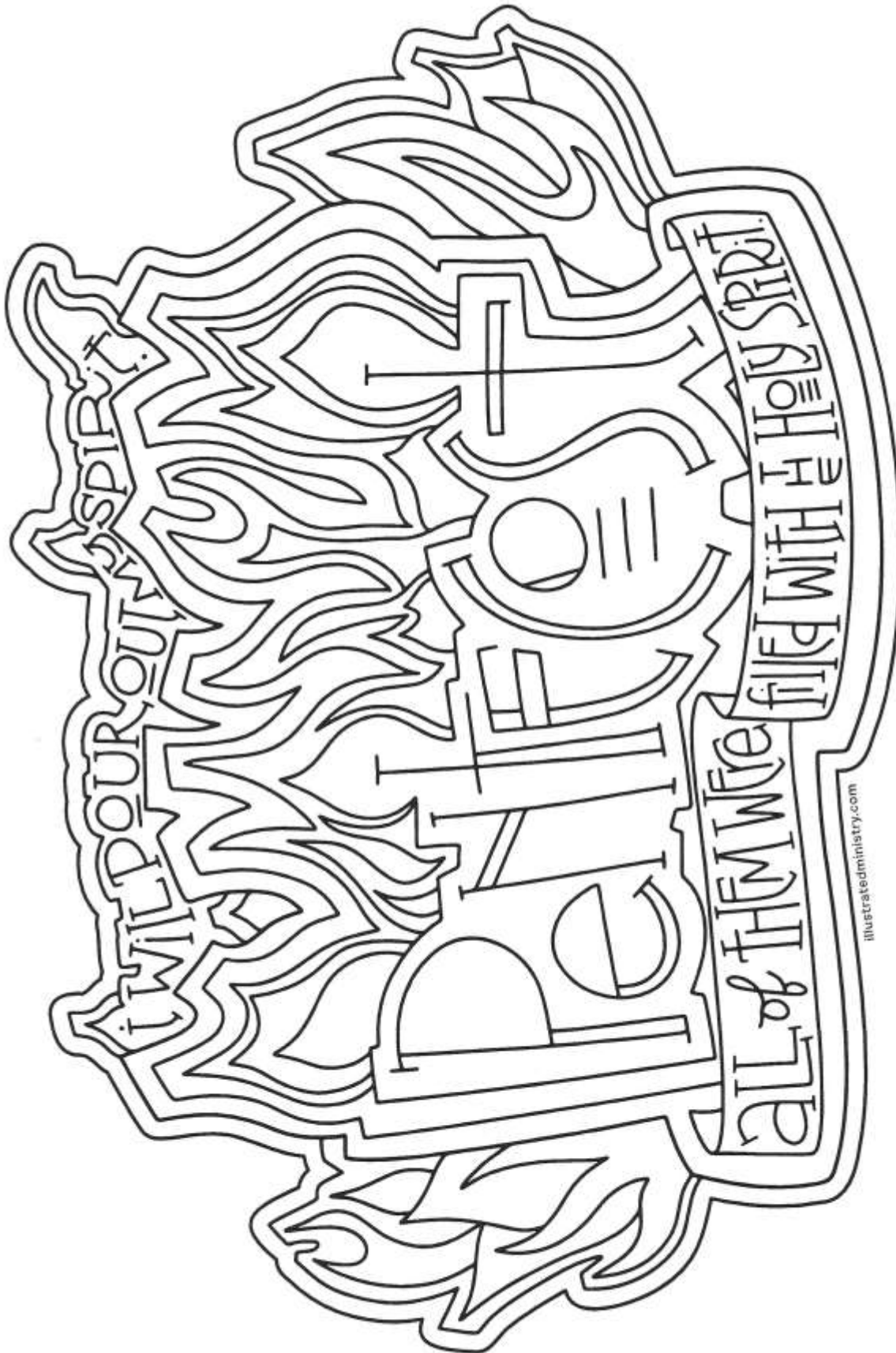


*Anne Kadue (right)
with a worship assistant.*

In faith,
Pastor Anne Kadue

Pentecost Coloring Page

Color this Pentecost image and bring with you to worship Sunday, May 28 (Pentecost), otherwise mail (5730 Grove St, Edina, MN 55436) or scan and email to carol@good.org before then. We'll display each piece of artwork received in the narthex for all to see and enjoy.



illustratedministry.com

"When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability." – Acts 2:1-4



Good Samaritan United Methodist Church
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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 (Children & Youth)
 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)

7:00pm

- Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- Youth Activities

GOOD SAMARITAN OFFICE HOURS

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