

July  
2023

# The Samaritan

## Worship Themes

National Parks  
& Monuments  
Worship Series

July 2 - "Diversity"  
(Great Smoky  
Mountains) /  
Communion

July 9 - "Preservation"  
(Everglades)

July 16 - "Trust"  
(Yosemite)

July 23 - "Sacred"  
(Devil's Tower)

July 30 -  
"Companionship"  
(Grand Teton) /  
Outdoor Worship



## Summer Outside with Homeward Bound



Wednesday, July 5, 7:00-8:00pm  
Centennial Lakes Amphitheatre,  
7499 France Ave S, Edina, MN

This is our annual gig at the Maetzold Amphitheatre on beautiful Centennial Lakes in Edina. We have performed there every summer for nearly a decade and always enjoy it. Bring a blanket or lawn chair and enjoy an hour of feel-good music from your favorite band.

Wednesday, July 12, 7:30-9:00pm  
Lake Harriet Bandshell,  
4135 W Lake Harriet Pkwy, Minneapolis, MN

The band is *thrilled* to announce our debut at the beautiful Lake Harriet Bandshell. Come early to get a good spot, either on one of the many state fair-type benches available or just on the lawn. Refreshments are available as well, or feel free to bring your own. The band is nervous but excited to make their debut on this large and beautiful stage!

Sunday, July 30, 10:00am  
Good Samaritan UMC Amphitheater  
5730 Grove St, Edina, MN

Join us for outdoor worship in the amphitheater on the north side of our building. Dress comfortably, bring a lawn chair, and consider inviting a new neighbor or calling up an old friend to come with you.

-Cheers, Brad Carlin

## OUR STAFF

Rev. Carol Zaagsma  
Lead Pastor  
carol@good.org  
952-452-9395

Now Hiring!  
Dir. of Congregational Care  
\_\_\_\_@good.org  
952-452-9396

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

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

Paolo Debuque  
Chancel Choir Director &  
Music Coordinator  
paolo@good.org

Mary Beth Berg  
Organist/Accompanist  
marybeth@good.org

Kate Graber  
Chancel Chimes Director  
kate@good.org

Brad Carlin  
Homeward Bound Director  
bradleypcarlin@gmail.com

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

Kim Hill  
Bookkeeper  
kim@good.org  
952-452-9394

Dan Green  
Building Engineer  
danrg@good.org  
612-889-4015

Dandy Lewis  
Media Specialist  
dandy@good.org

Good Samaritan UMC  
Office: 952-929-0049

# Pastor's Page

In worship this summer, we've been exploring some of America's National Parks by celebrating their unique features, looking at how indigenous peoples utilized the land as many as 12,000 years before the United States was founded, and correlating that to our faith by focusing on themes such as beginnings, faithfulness and darkness. I hope you've enjoyed the tour thus far, as we'll continue these travels through Labor Day. Please remember that you can access worship on Facebook or our website (good.org/watch) on Sundays as early as 6:00 am, or any time thereafter.

During this series, we've touched lightly on preservation efforts in some of the parks, so in this column I want to share a few ideas on how we all can care for creation perhaps a little better. Genesis 2:15 reminds us, "The Lord God took the human and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it." Part of our purpose is to be good stewards of the land we have been placed on, as well as the water and the air we share.

I've come up with a few simple ideas to consider:

- Delight with all creation - be curious about it, learn more, enjoy it in all seasons, and approach it with a posture of cohabitating in the space rather than conquering the elements.
- Reduce (or eliminate) the number of bottled beverages you purchase. Did you know that it takes 1.4 gallons of water to produce a typical plastic single-use water or soda bottle? And that is just for the 16.9 ounce size bottles! The same is true for juice bottles; and even more if we're talking about a 64 ounce bottle. In a season of drought, we can look at consumption beyond how much or little we water our lawns, and look with a keen eye at what natural resources are needed to provide the purchases we make.
- Compost - in your back yard, or through your municipality if available. Bloomington started curbside compost pickup a year or so ago. I'm disheartened at how few people on my street take advantage of this service. It's surprising how much compost we produce, and it has definitely cut down on the amount of garbage my household throws away.
- Recycle - take care to know what plastics and other items can be recycled in your area. For example, paper plates with food residue will contaminate other paper in the recycling process, so dispose of those in the garbage when you can't use washable dishes. This makes the process of recycling much more efficient and productive.

This is a pretty basic list, and I suspect you can think of many other great ideas. I invite you to share some of your thoughts on our Online Community Facebook Group. I just wanted to take a moment this month to encourage you in your stewardship efforts. Please know that every little effort adds up when we all do our part.

Caring for creation with you,



*Pastor Carol*

# Music

## Calling All Singers

We know you are out there!

Maybe you've always loved to sing but are unsure about diving into the full commitment of Chancel Choir. Or maybe you are a confirmed choral singer without the space to sing regularly in choir. Whatever the case may be, Good Samaritan Chancel Choir director Paolo Debuque has a plan - OPEN CHOIR! Approximately every other month there will be Open Choir on the worship schedule. We will announce those opportunities a few weeks in advance.



If you would like to sing with the choir all you need to do is show up in the Sanctuary at 9:00am on that day. Paolo will have a piece of music chosen and will rehearse with all who show up to sing. We will break at 9:45am, sit with family or friends in the congregation until it's time to sing, and then gather on the steps at the front to offer our gift of music to the Good Sam family! It's fun and satisfying and Paolo makes us sound really good! Come and join us at the next Open Choir!

Peace and love...and music!  
Marilee Stevens

Upcoming Open Choir dates:  
July 9                      October 1  
August 20                December 1

# Congregational Care

## Thursday Afternoon Book Group



The Thursday Afternoon Book Group will meet on July 13 at 1:00pm in the Fireside Room. We will discuss *Chronicles of a Radical Hag* by Lorna Landvik.

Contact Vicki Dunn with questions - victoria.dunn@q.com or 651-249-6948.

## Forest Therapy Twilight Walk

A Blue Moon is scheduled to appear in the sky the night of Wednesday, August 30, so we're planning a Forest Therapy Twilight Walk that evening from 7:00-9:00pm with Jerad Morey, an ANFT Certified Forest Therapy Guide. Jerad is the part-time Associate Pastor at Northfield United Methodist Church who also works in nonprofit management at the Minnesota Council of Churches.

Forest Therapy Walks are said to lower blood pressure, heart rate and cortisol (the stress hormone). As one college student said, "I was expecting a simple outdoor meditative session, but this was much more meaningful!" while a participant in a Moonlight Walk at River Bend Nature Center said, "That was unlike anything I have ever done before."



Intrigued? More details will follow in the August newsletter. Save the date on your calendar now, as space is limited! And in the meantime, learn more here: <https://www.cbsnews.com/minnesota/news/forest-therapy-helping-some-minnesotans-lower-stress-connect-with-nature/>

# Children, Youth and Family Ministries



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

## Adaptive Vacation Bible Camp



August 7-10, 2023 from 9am-12pm. We are partnering with Eden Prairie UMC to offer an Adaptive Summer Bible Camp. This experience supports kids with social, communication, and sensory needs. Children will enjoy games, fun and creative learning with trained volunteers. Adaptive Camp is for children 3 1/2 years and older. There is no charge for this camp. Contact Jan for registration - jan@good.org.

## Helping Libraries

The first two Helping Libraries are now available - *Anxious and Worry* and *Death and Dying*. These book collections are designed to help you and your children with some big topics. Books and other resources can be found in bags in the Good Sam Library where they can be checked out.

## Youth Group Kickoff!

Grades 6 to 12, let's brainstorm together! What sounds fun - Valley Fair, Mall of America, Escape Room, Water Park? Send Jan your suggestion and two dates in August that work for you! (You are always encouraged to invite a friend!) - jan@good.org.

## Hearts and Hammers

Families with youth ages 12 and older are encouraged to participate in the Good Sam Hearts and Hammers Service Project on August 19. See the Missions Team article on page 5.



Thank you to the Children Youth and Family Volunteers for program year 2022-2023

- |                      |                   |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| Mary Lach            | JoAnn Knutson     |
| Dean Kraus           | Dave Knutson      |
| Claire Gause         | Cheryl Lynn Graff |
| Janet VanBenthuyssen | Jane Heimerl      |
| Marilyn Christiansen | Loretta Kenny     |
| Eric Leill           | Paolo Debuque     |

# ASP (Appalachia Service Project)

Harlan County, Kentucky here we come!

Our ASP mission trip is coming up - July 22-30. Our work site is approximately 1000 miles away. We have six vehicles going to Harlan County, and we will need to fill tanks several times! The gas fundraiser for the ASP mission trip will be July 9 and 16. Help fill the gas tanks with cash or checks payable to Good Samaritan UMC! We truly appreciate your help!



# Missions

## Hearts and Hammers Program Day



You are invited to volunteer:  
Saturday August 19, 2023  
[heartsandhammers.org](http://heartsandhammers.org)

### Whom Hearts & Hammers Assists

Hearts & Hammers is a local non-profit organization providing free exterior painting and maintenance assistance for income-qualified homeowners across the Twin Cities. We assist senior citizens, disabled individuals, and veterans of the US Armed Forces or their surviving spouses so they can continue living independently.

### What Hearts & Hammers Does

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, scraping, 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 volunteer see information below.

### What You Can Do

Volunteer and encourage family and friends to join you to do repair and preparation work before the program day of August 19. Volunteer on August 19 for all or part of the day to scrape, prime, and paint a home; many volunteers help to make a schedule that works for everyone and makes the project move to completion. Volunteers for landscape work are important to enhance the appearance and enjoyment of the finished project.

### How to Volunteer and Get Signed Up

To volunteer for the Good Samaritan project, please contact Brian Boysen: (952) 937-0624 or (612) 220-3795 or email at: [bteamback-up@earthlink.net](mailto:bteamback-up@earthlink.net)

Please provide the following information:

- Name
- Contact Info
- Work Preference (repairs, landscaping, prep and painting)

Go to Hearts & Hammers Website to review safety guidelines and electronically sign your waiver of liability. (Please note: *Paper copies are NOT available on Program Day*)

- Adults: <http://heartsandhammers.org/adult-waiver/>
- Youth (12yrs-17yrs): <http://heartsandhammers.org/youth-waiver/>

---

## Service Opportunity



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

Wednesday, July 12 - 11:30am-1:15pm  
Note different time (this month only)

Sign up with Jane Heimerl at  
[jane.heimerl@yahoo.com](mailto:jane.heimerl@yahoo.com)  
by July 10. Space is limited!

# Marketing

## Good Sam at the July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade



Good Sam will once again participate in the Edina July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade. Our Giant Puppets (also known as the Three Wise Men at Christmas time) will lead us. We need 17-20 people willing to show off the Good Sam spirit at the parade. The parade route is less than one mile and much of it is shady. We will gather at 9:00am for instructions and hints on puppet operation with the parade beginning at 10:00am. You will have a good time, guaranteed! Carpooling from Good Sam is possible. Contact Brian Boysen at 612-220-3795 or [bteam@earthlink.net](mailto:bteam@earthlink.net) to sign up.



# Finance Team

## Avoid the Summer Slump

Summertime is great in Minnesota - kids are off school, families head up North / take vacations, or we just enjoy the outdoors.

At Good Sam, however, we experience a few "light" months in income - pledge income, loose offering, and even the Creekside pre-school takes the summer off (no rental income June-August). Our expenses unfortunately don't take the summer off as most of our expense is tied to personnel, building/property, and even apportionments.

How can you help? If you have a balance on your pledge, consider paying that during the summer. If you have fulfilled your pledge, and have the ability to give an additional amount, that would be much appreciated!

Thank you for your support of our church! May financials are listed below.

~Byron Olson

	May Actuals	May Plan	Year-to-Date
<b>Income</b>	\$25,759	\$43,291	\$283,179
<b>Expense</b>	\$72,312	\$70,506	\$292,453
<b>Net</b>	\$(46,553)	\$(27,384)	\$(9,274)

# Trustees

## Maintenance Minute: **Good Sam's Rain Garden**

I hope each of you is having a great summer.

Speaking of summer being here, it brings a ton of grounds maintenance at Good Sam. We have so many great people that help take care of our lawn and gardens.

One thing added to this list of needing maintenance is our rain garden, located at the north end of the lower lot. I'm hoping to find a couple folks that would be interested in helping out with this maintenance. It includes pulling weeds, replanting or moving plants as needed, clearing out leaves and dead foliage, and a few other minor things.

We have all the tools that are necessary, we just need the extra pair of hands or two.

If anyone is interested in this, please contact me at [danrg@good.org](mailto:danrg@good.org). Thank you, everyone!

Dan Green  
(he/him)

Building Engineer

[danrg@good.org](mailto:danrg@good.org)

612-889-4015





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

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION  
 U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
 TWIN CITIES, MN  
 PERMIT NO. 2518

*Electronic Service Requested*



**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

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

WEDNESDAYS

(Our program-year calendar re-  
 sumes September 6 with nursery,  
 Chancel Chimes & Chancel Choir  
 Rehearsals, and Youth Group.)

6:00pm  
 • Caregivers Support Group  
 (2nd Wednesdays)

GOOD SAMARITAN OFFICE HOURS

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