

September
2023

The Samaritan

Worship Themes

September 3 marks the end of our summer worship series on the National Parks.

September 10 we will begin a worship series with some of Jesus's parables and teachings.

September 3 - Sabbath (Hot Springs)/ Communion

September 10 - Parable of the Sower / Rally Day w/ Outdoor Fellowship

September 17 - Parable of the Unforgiving Servant

September 24 - Strong Foundations



Rally DAY

Sunday, September 10

10:00am Worship
(In-person and Online)

Children's Sunday School during Worship
(following Children's Time)

Fellowship and Refreshments Outside
with Live Music from Homeward Bound
(following Worship)

We'll celebrate the beginning of our program year
on Sunday, September 10,
with the return of the Chancel Choir to worship,
a new Sunday School curriculum,
and fellowship and refreshments outside
with music from Homeward Bound.

We hope to see you there!



Music group rehearsals begin
on Wednesday, September 6,
with Chancel Chimes meeting from 6:00-7:15pm
and Chancel Choir from 7:00-9:00pm. Join us!

OUR STAFF

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

Open Position
Dir. of Congregational Care
____@good.org
952-452-9398

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

One of my favorite things to do this time of year is go to the Minnesota State Fair. There are many reasons I like it so much; but one that comes to mind is that even with 2 million people attending every year, there seems to be a place for everyone there.

Whether one goes to try the latest new food item offered on a stick, or to work at one of the booths, or to walk through and enjoy the earthy smell of the animal barns, or to experience the thrill of the midway rides, or to imagine (or remember) life on a farm as you meander through machinery hill, or to participate as an exhibitor by entering your jellies or jams or needlepoint in the Creative Arts building, or to remember the joy of new birth at the birthing barn, or to people watch, shop, or take in the concerts (or even perform on the amateur talent stage), there is a place for everyone at the State Fair.

Similarly, Church is like the Minnesota State Fair...that there is a place for everyone here. This summer we have had wonderful opportunities for everyone...from worship experiences with opportunity to sing or play an instrument, read scripture, usher, care for children in the nursery or Sunday school, operate the sound system, and offer hospitality...to ongoing care of the peace garden and other landscaping at our entrances...to mission projects where we collected school supplies, sent a team to ASP, painted a home and improved landscaping at a Hearts & Hammers project, and are focusing now on sponsorships for students at the Richard Ormsby School in Sierra Leone, Africa.

The State Fair marks the unofficial end of summer here in Minnesota, but we all know that endings often bring new beginnings. The same is true here at church. The end of the summer marks the beginning of a new program year...a year that will be filled with music and laughter and prayer and mission and building care and study and deepening relationships, all through the work of the Holy Spirit and the joining together of our labors.

If you have not yet found a place here at your church...that place that opens your heart and busies your hands and feeds your soul and deepens your walk with Christ and connection with one another...then I encourage you to try something new here at church...or try something that is already happening...or talk with me about trying a new ministry idea that you have.



There really is a place for everyone in God's Kingdom. May we continue to open our hearts, minds and doors wider so that everyone can find their place.

Serving with you,

Pastor Carol

Music

Come Sing!

Dear Good Sam community,

I hope you've had a restful and restorative summer. It seems like just last week we were giving the 2022-23 program year a grand goodbye with our now-traditional Homeward Bound/ Chancel Choir "big music" Sunday! My own summer has been quite eventful, and I'm looking forward to coming home to Good Sam's 2023-24 program year.

This will be my third season as Chancel Choir Director at Good Sam. Looking back on the past two years, it's honestly thrilling to see all we've built in such a short time! Creating our collaborative Lessons and Carols service, developing the church's AAPI programming, rebooting the children's music programming (big shout out to Cindy!)... the list goes on!

With all these programs and more in place, the only thing missing is YOU! It's time to re-engage ourselves in music-making at Good Sam and fill our sanctuary with our voices! If you have sung with us in the past, or considered singing, or just want to explore it for the first time, I urge you to give it a try! Whether you're a longtime choral singer eager to sing regularly or a relative newcomer interested in dipping your toes in, there is a place for you in our music ministries.

How to get engaged

There are three main opportunities to lend your voice to worship at Good Sam. First (and my favorite!) is to join the Chancel Choir! Chancel Choir meets Wednesdays from 7:00-9:00pm from September to the first week of June and sings at 2-3 Sunday services each month. Our first rehearsal is September 6. If you enjoy the experience of dedicated choral rehearsals and performance but can't commit to every Wednesday throughout the year, we have two Project Choirs each year: one culminating in Lessons and Carols in early December and the other culminating in our Easter service. Project Choirs meet Wednesday evenings with a discrete start

and end date, usually lasting 6 weeks total.

Finally, if you love to sing but are either

new to choir, a tentative returning member, or are unable to attend any rehearsals, keep your eyes peeled for Open Choir opportunities! For worship with Open Choir, we meet an hour beforehand to rehearse a brand new, more accessible, piece of music that serves as the service's anthem. These take place once every six weeks or so, as well as special evening services like Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday.

I am glad to work and make music in a church with as rich a history of music-making and as deep an appreciation of music as Good Sam. If you share my appreciation and want to contribute to this wonderful musical culture, I hope you'll find a way this year to sing with us!

Paolo Debuque

Chancel Choir
Director &
Music Coordinator

paolo@good.org
952-452-9397



Come Ring!

Our new season of Chancel Chime rehearsals begin on Wednesday, September 6. ALL are welcome. Rehearsals are every Wednesday, 6:00 - 7:15pm.

Not sure about ringing? Not sure about the commitment? Come to an open house to try ringing and hear all about options for participation on Wednesday, September 13 at 6:00pm.

Fun for all ages. Bring your neighbor, bring your mom, bring your desire to have fun. Contact Kate Graber at kate@good.org with questions.

Kate Graber

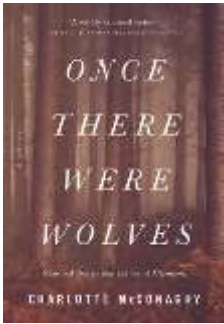
Chancel Chimes
Director

kate@good.org
952-452-9411



Congregational Care

Thursday Afternoon Book Club



Our September meeting will be on Thursday, September 14 at 1:00pm in the Fireside Room.

The discussion title will be *Once There Were Wolves* by

Charlotte McConaghy, a story of the attempted "rewilding" of 14 gray wolves in the Scottish Highlands.

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

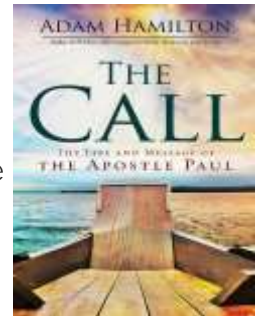
Tuesday Morning Bible Study Resumes

Tuesday Morning Bible Study will weekly resume meetings Tuesday, September 12 from 9:30-11:30am in the Fireside Room.

Our first meeting will be a catch up and social time. On September 19, Pastor Carol will be with us to discuss what is happening in the United Methodist Church this year, especially the General Conference next spring.

On September 26 we will begin our discussion of the book *The Call: The Life and Message of the Apostle Paul* by Adam Hamilton. This group is open to all and we heartily welcome new members. Our discussions are great and questions are encouraged.

Contact Carol Smith for more information - carolsden@gmail.com or 612-999-3953.



Social Justice Family Academy



Good Samaritan United Methodist Church • 5730 Grove St • Edina, MN 55436

Can we create a better world for today and tomorrow? Together, we can. This opportunity is for elementary school children grades K-6 accompanied by an adult(s) who want to make more socially just decisions and take action in a way that makes our world better. The nursery will be open for younger siblings.

"We affirm that the way we live our lives is the fullest expression of what we believe."

THREE SESSIONS

(Saturdays 12:00-1:30)

- October 14, 2023 (LGBTQIA+ Inclusion)
- November 11, 2023 (Disability Awareness)
- December 9, 2023 (Racial Justice)

Each session taught by a local expert.

SCHEDULE

- 12:00-12:20 Lunch
- 12:20-12:30 Devotion / Story
- 12:30-1:30 Program
- *1:30-2:30 (Optional) Adult Conversation & Activities for Children

**Additional time from 1:30-2:30 for adults to connect while children enjoy a topic-based activity and supervised play in the gym.*

\$100 per family (includes lunch)

Register at tinyurl.com/SocialJusticeFamilyAcademy

Children, Youth and Family Ministries

Sunday School

Fall Sunday School begins on Rally Day, September 10! Our hope is to divide the class up into two groups - Pre-K - 2nd grade and 3rd - 6th grade. We will head to our classes after Children's Time in worship.



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

- Pre-K - 2nd grade will be in Room 200
- 3rd - 6th grade will be in Room 201
- Youth are encouraged to stay with their family in worship, or to help in the Nursery or with Sunday School.

Adaptive Vacation Bible Camp Success!



We had a fun-filled four days of day camp in August for 10 of our friends who have ADHD, or Autism Spectrum Disorder or physical disabilities!

This camp was a partnership between Eden Prairie and Good Samaritan UMCs. We spent our time learning about God and how we can positively interact with our neighbors. One camper lives 80 minutes away from Eden Prairie UMC, so his grown-up decided to stay in a hotel so he could have this milestone experience.

Only two of the 10 campers have a current affiliation with a church. Sadly, many of the families have had the experience of being asked not to return to a church they were attending because the church was not equipped to provide experiences for their family.

An amazing group of volunteers, including our own Jayne Komadina and Janet VanBenthuisen made this a great week of learning, fellowship and memories for kids that don't always get included in fun opportunities like this.

Plans are starting for next year's camp already! Thank you for supporting such a great and unique ministry.



If you are waiting for a sign from God to tell you how you can use your time to make a real difference in the world, this is your sign: Volunteer in Children, Youth and Family Ministries!

Appalachia Service Project

Lives Changed

Below is a reflection from Susie Monson, a college student from Good Samaritan UMC who went on this year's ASP Mission Trip to Harlan, Kentucky in July.

The first visit to the site is when I met Bruce, Sophia, and Alexis. Meeting them for the first time was like a breath of fresh air. I wasn't scared to meet them, just hesitant. Being welcomed in with open arms and smiles was the moment I knew this home was something special.

Sophia is an elegant, sweet woman with the purest heart I've met. She's been through a lot in her life and I was blessed to have her share some of her story with me. It really opens your eyes to see how people got to his moment in time and how much this family went through in their life. With it being 90 plus degrees and humid in Kentucky, work got sweaty and hot, but Sophia had all four of her AC units running for us. She said they haven't been used in years because they're so expensive, yet she ran all four of them for us for all five days.

Bruce on the other hand is complete opposite. He's a quirky, silly, fun guy with the best humor. He never wore a shirt and had no teeth and the thickest accent I've ever met so I really didn't get to experience the humor until about Thursday since it took me so long to be able to understand him. He and I worked on a lot of projects on the house together and we bonded like never before. On Friday afternoon I was struggling finishing up some of the flooring while everyone was on their lunch break. Bruce and Sophia hung out with me while I finished and we shared some good conversation about our futures. That's when Bruce told me "I'd want my daughter to grow up just like you."

Meeting Lexi is one of the best moments of my life. I had no clue what life was until I met this 9-year-old girl. She completed me. Right from the beginning she was showing me her birds and toys and house, bringing so many smiles on so many faces effortlessly. She lit up every room with her big smile and sweet personality and is so loved by her mom and Bruce. The first day, Lexi was telling everyone that we were BFFs. So we made a BFF friendship bracelet and necklaces that I am still wearing currently. I have these necklaces and bracelets as a core memory for how much love this little girl and I shared. It's so special to now wear something that is made out of

beads and string be worth the most value. And it's something I'll never take off.

I don't know how but I managed to still get a lot of work done even with my new BFF clinging to my hip. She was always interested in what project I was working on and loved to help me measure. Lexi has the most beautiful long hair just like mine, so we enjoyed brushing and braiding each others hair.

Throughout the week the more time Lexi and I spent together the more we grew with each other. We knew what we liked and didn't like, what we liked to do together, and learned all about our journeys leading up to this moment. Although she is only 9, the life she's loved isn't for a kid. Lexi has been through a lot and I'm very proud of her for still being the special little girl she is.

On the last day of our trip, it was time for Lexi and me to say goodbye. We held hands all the way down the driveway and talked about writing letters to each other to stay in touch. As she was leaving she looked me in the eyes and said, "Miss Susie, I don't think I've ever loved anyone like I've loved you before."

I still remember those words so vividly and what they did to me. There is no explanation to the feeling I felt when I heard those words. It was like if I were to see my favorite celebrity for the first time. We had the longest hug in hugging history and it was definitely one of the hardest goodbyes I've had to make on ASP. But looking back, the hardest goodbye means it was a pretty strong relationship to begin with. Lexi was talking about how thankful she is to have such kind people working on her house. Little did she know, that us helping her was our pleasure. I'm currently finding difficult words to describe this trip. This is something you can't explain. Only something you can experience. You'll never know real joy until you help someone.

I still feel like I have dirt in my nails and hair. No matter how much I scrubbed I still never felt clean. The center was very clean but I definitely still have dirt in my hair. I'm still trying to physically wash away that trip, but I will never want to wash it away from my mind. It was so special to be able to experience a love and connection like I never have before. This truly is a beautiful life filled with beautiful people and you should explore it.

~ Susie Monson

Missions

Advocate for Affordable Housing

Good Sam mainly knows Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative for their Families Moving Forward Program, but they also maintain 19 affordable housing buildings in the Twin Cities. They got approval in 2020 from the Shakopee Planning Commission to build one more: Prairie Pointe. However, now the city wants to rezone that land, which would prevent Beacon from going ahead with this plan. If you, or anyone you know, care about bringing much-needed affordable homes for 46 families to Shakopee, please come to the Planning Commission meeting on Sept 7 at 7:00pm at the Shakopee City Hall, 485 Gorman St. We will gather at 6:30pm to organize.

There is no legal basis for the city to rezone and strip this designation that is essential for building Prairie Pointe. The project is vital in meeting the **community's needs, and it aligns with the city's** stated goals and commitments around affordable housing. Beacon followed all the requirements laid out by the city to secure the Planned Unit Development (PUD) zoning designation, and Beacon is hopeful that the city will do the right thing. Showing up in solidarity on September 7 is critical to demonstrate that we believe quality affordable housing belongs in all communities.

~ Pat Deckas Becerra



Service Opportunity

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

Friday, September 8 - 7:00-8:45pm
Wednesday, September 13 - 9:00-10:45am

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

Reconciling Updates

Minnesota Reconciling Congregations (MRC) helped to staff the Hamline Dining Hall at the Minnesota State Fair on Saturday, August 26.

This is a first for the MRC and provided an opportunity for significant public visibility for Reconciling efforts.



Good Samaritan has budgeted support for Reconciling efforts and the plan is to divide that funding between the Minnesota Reconciling

Congregations (MRC) and Reconciling Ministries Network (RMN), which seeks the inclusion of members of the LGBT+ community in both the policy and practices of the United Methodist Church.

Again, thanks for your support.

~ Brian Boysen

Missions

Good Samaritans in Action through Hearts & Hammers

We thank the more than 30 volunteers who worked on this year's Good Samaritan Hearts & Hammers project house during the month of August. Hearts & Hammers is a local organization whose mission is to keep people in the homes they love by assisting low-income homeowners with exterior home projects. They will complete approximately 70 homes this year! This work brings transformation not only to the homeowners, but to the whole community. Good Samaritan has been volunteering for work for 20 years.



Before the work began

This year's project house was in Richfield. The work included landscape-related tasks, power washing, repairs including a major rehabilitation of the overhead garage door, and prep for painting with the paint day on August 19. Special thanks to Karen Bach, former Good Sam member and current H & H board member, for her help with volunteers, planning, and carrying out the transformation of the home and grounds. Thanks also to Mike Olauson for leading the extensive repairs. And thank you to all who volunteered and provided lunch, especially Claudia Boysen.

Good Sam's Mission Team pays the \$500 entry fee and we have a special account to provide lunch, snacks, and repair supplies. If you would like to keep that fund going, donations can be made to Good Sam with Hearts & Hammers in the memo line. Thank you for your support!

~ Brian Boysen, Pat Deckas Becerra, & JoAnn Knutson



Some of the many volunteers



A job well done!

Missions

Our Connection to the Baiwalla School

Want to help a child with a brighter future? Sponsor a scholarship for a student in Africa! Yes, the school in Baiwalla which Good Sam has been helping has many children whose parents earn just \$2 a day. We have posters in the narthex of Good Sam with felt figures on one side



representing the children who don't have a sponsor yet, but we'll move those figures over to the other side every time a child does get a sponsor. Help us to move as many as possible to the sponsored side! Just let anyone on the Missions Team know when you do, so we'll know how many felt figures to move.

What two ways can you contribute?

- Sponsor a child's school fees of \$310 for the 2023-24 school year
- Pay for a child's lunches - \$150 per year

1. Go online to www.ocministriesmn.org. Click on the DONATE button. Scroll down to "Sierra Leone: School Child Sponsorship" – NOT the "Sierra Leone, where needed most". Choose an option to pay with a credit card once, or make monthly payments. OR
2. Make out a check to Good Samaritan UMC and put "Baiwalla sponsorship" in the memo line.

What's the Minnesota connection to this school?

The director and founder of the school in Baiwalla is Rev. Judith Banya. Her connection to Minnesota goes back 25 years. As she told us at Good Sam in August 2022, she was very poor growing up in Africa and never slept in a bed by herself until she was 14 when she went to a boarding school in Sierra Leone. There she was also surprised to learn then that anyone ate three meals a day! She forged ahead and when she was 40, she fled her war-torn country to come to Minnesota where her daughter was studying. Judith decided to also study at a semi-

nary school here. She then worked as a pastor in Minneapolis until she went back to Sierra Leone 18 years later, at age 58. She was driven to fulfill her dream of creating the first secondary school in her small village of Baiwalla.

How did this school start? Through OC Ministries and the inspiring words of Rev. Judith Banya, they convinced 50 Minnesota United Methodist churches to contribute enough to build her school. Today this school helps to heal a broken world in a tangible way because through education, the village will be able to progress and become a much more self-sustaining place. The Richard Ormsby Secondary School in Baiwalla, Sierra Leone opened in 2019. It is named after Rev. Richard Ormsby, a retired Minnesota pastor who mentored Rev.

Banya when she lived in Minnesota. It provides an opportunity for 400 children to graduate from high school and has expanded to include an elementary school.



What is the future of this school? The goal is for the school to be self-sustaining in five years. Rev. Judith Banya has acquired 40 acres of land adjacent to the school that will be used to teach the students about science and agriculture by planting crops and raising animals. They plan to sell the extra crops and animals that aren't needed and use the proceeds to feed the children. Students at the school receive two meals a day: lunch and a substantial snack. This school is located in a remote area of Sierra Leone where few children have had the opportunity to obtain a high school education. Most need to receive scholarships to attend the school which gives the graduates a chance to have a much more prosperous life than their parents have had. Help give them a hope-filled FUTURE!

~Pat Deckas Becerra

Good Samaritans Doing Good

Merit Scholar

A big congratulations to Jacob Tietz on earning a National Merit Scholarship! Jacob will be attending the University of Minnesota this fall, majoring in computer science and minoring in statistics. Great job, Jacob!



The Good Samaritan Foundation

Foundation Highlights



The Foundation Board of directors held their third quarter meeting on August 17. Items of note were that the Finance Committee has transferred \$6500, one half of their 2023 draw, from the Evergreen Fund to ease the cash shortfall for annual budget. The Trustees used \$6484 in Cornerstone funds to pay for re-roofing the garage. In response to the tragic fires on the Hawaiian island of Maui, the Board voted to support the efforts of UMCOR who is coordinating with the California-Pacific Annual Conference to process an initial grant for emergency supplies such as shelf-stable food, water, hygiene items, and tools to help survivors to recover belongings.

The Board of Directors appreciates the quiet guidance and the expertise of the Investment Committee members who manage the funds of The Foundation. Through the ups and downs of the markets they review the individual investments in each fund, buy, sell or hold current investments, and keep the asset allocations within targeted ranges. Thank you!

The next meeting of The Foundation Board is scheduled for November 16. If you know of a local, national or international non-profit you would like to recommend for a grant from the Foundation, please contact Claudia Boysen at claudiaLboysen@gmail.com for more information.

Finance Team

Finance Update

Thank you for your support of our church! We appreciate those that have contributed this summer – it really helps! We can still use your help as we are “short” YTD. If you have a balance on your pledge, consider paying that before the end of the year. 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! July financials are listed below. ~ Byron Olson

	July Actuals	July Plan	Year-to-Date
Income	\$54,413	\$60,351	\$384,307
Expense	\$50,174	\$51,380	\$405,890
Net	\$4,239	\$8,971	(\$21,582)

Trustees

Maintenance Minute: Grounds Improvements

Here are a couple grounds related things that we have had done at Good Sam these past couple of months. We had to have a large ash tree removed right outside of the gym entrance. Unfortunately, it was too far gone by being



infected by the emerald ash borer bug. Many new limbs this year became dead and near the bottom it was clearly rotting away.

That tree has actually been properly treated to prevent the ash borer for quite a few years but once it reaches a certain point, there's really no coming back. I'd like to think we got many more years then we should have out of that tree due to having it treated.

We have also recently had more concrete replaced this summer. One spot being the slab at the bottom of the stairs leading to the gym entrance. Another was 77 feet of new curb installed at the lower lot near the Community Room entrance. The gym slab was a pretty big tripping hazard, especially for all the little feet that come in for the preschool. It was unlevel and starting to crumble away.

The curb in the lower lot was also cracking, crumbling and unlevel. Now in both spots there will be a much better water runoff and they will be less hazardous.

John and Jerry's was the name of the company that did our work. John, the owner, was very insightful on things I can do to patch areas myself along with showing me some products that he suggested I use. I would highly recommend them to do any asphalt or concrete work for your next job!

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





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

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

WEDNESDAYS

Starting September 6

(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